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EVERY WEEKDAY

CJD risk threatens ban on British blood

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

Blood transfusions from British donors could be banned because of the remote risk that they could spread Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human form of "mad cow" disease.

The Health Department is expected to decide this week whether the 40 million-to-one chance of a donor having CJD is a greater risk than that of blood purchased from abroad being contaminated with more common infections, including HIV.

If it did ban British blood — which is free — the health service would have to spend millions of pounds buying supplies from overseas.

A series of reports considering the possibility that donors might be carriers of the infection were studied last month by the group of experts who advise Government on how to control and treat the illness and they forwarded the reports to the Health Department with a warning that it was impossible to be sure that blood transfusions were perfectly safe.

The Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (Seac) said that a report from the consultants Den Norsk Veritas showed that a system for purifying blood called leukodepletion — which removes white cells — could not be guaranteed to clear the infection from blood, as had been hoped. The report, based on studies in America, found that the system was effective but not perfect.

The Seac advice is that the Government must decide whether the CJD risk is greater than that of unknown infections in foreign blood.

Of the 25 known British victims of CJD — all of whom died — three were blood donors, although it is not known whether they were carrying the disease when they gave blood. The report estimates some 80,000 donors could be carrying the human form of CJD. That could mean one in every 125 patients given

a transfusion could receive blood contaminated with new variant CJD. Some patients who receive several different blood products could be at greater risk.

Previous Seac recommendations have been accepted by the Government including one in February that blood from British donors should not be used in the manufacture of plasma products because of the possibility of infection. From September, all plasma will be bought from the United States, where new variant CJD is unknown.

Because plasma products can be kept for long periods and individual donations are mixed together, it cannot be guaranteed that some of the contaminated blood is not present in some of the products, so they are being phased out. However, blood used in transfusions can be kept for a maximum of a month, and since there is no known test for CJD until it is in an advanced state, it is impossible to know if a donor is suffering from it until after the blood has been used.

Stephen Dealler, a microbiologist who was one of the first to raise fears about new variant CJD, last night called on the Government to take urgent action. "This is the news that a lot of people feared," he said. "The official line has always been to play down the risk, but now we have firm evidence that a significant number of people could develop new variant CJD from blood. There may be thousands of people out there who have possibly become infected."

A Health Department spokesman confirmed that all Mr Irving's patients' records would be reviewed and those affected would be offered a clinical examination. An emergency telephone helpline — 0800 224488 — has been set up. Mr Irving's private patients at Fernbrae Hospital in Dundee and Albyn Hospital



Tsar Nicholas II's coffin arriving in St Petersburg for today's funeral, which will be broadcast live across Russia. President Yeltsin has decided to attend after all. Page 16

Doctor suspended over breast cancer operations

By GILLIAN HARRIS, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A SURGEON was suspended yesterday amid allegations that he operated on women with suspected breast cancer without first completing routine diagnostic checks.

Douglas Irving, 51, the medical director at Stracathro Hospital in Brechin, northeast Scotland, was asked to stand down after a preliminary audit of his breast cancer caseload over the past five years revealed that about 150 patients could be affected by his failure to follow guidelines on treatment of the disease.

Concerns about Mr Irving's clinical practice were raised by his colleagues. A full investigation will be carried out into claims that he contravened rules agreed by surgeons in Tayside, which state that doctors treating breast disease must carry out a mammogram and take a biopsy before surgery.

Tayside Health Board announced yesterday that all Mr Irving's patients' records would be reviewed and those affected would be offered a clinical examination. An emergency telephone helpline — 0800 224488 — has been set up. Mr Irving's private patients at Fernbrae Hospital in Dundee and Albyn Hospital

in Aberdeen will also be informed of his suspension.

Ron McLeod, the acting chief executive of Angus NHS Trust, said: "Our overriding concern is for the welfare of Mr Irving's patients. From the results of our initial investigations, it appears that a number of patients may have been adversely affected by the failure to follow strict surgical procedures."

Mr Irving, who earns £90,000 a year and has worked for Angus NHS Trust for 15 years, will remain on full pay throughout the inquiry, which is expected to last a week. His post will be filled



Irving suspended on full pay during inquiry

temporarily by Gordon Paterson, the chief administrative medical director of Grampian Health Board.

Last night, Mr Paterson said: "Concerns were expressed about some aspects of Mr Irving's practice and quite properly, his colleagues made preliminary inquiries. These suggest that there should be an external review of his practices and that has been put in action."

Mr Paterson said that there were "agreed guidelines" in Tayside for the investigation and management of suspected breast cancer. He said the guidelines were "about the stages that have to be gone through to investigate a woman who presents herself with an abnormality of the breast which may or may not be breast cancer."

Sam Galbraith, the Scottish Health Minister, said he was "determined to ensure that all the circumstances surrounding this incident are fully investigated and that lessons are learned."

Ruth Leslie Melville, chairwoman of Tayside Health Council, expressed surprise that Mr Irving's workload had not been audited over the past five years.

Damages ruling set to inflate premiums

By FRANCES GIBBS AND ANNE ASHWORTH

MOTORISTS, employers and doctors face higher insurance premiums after a landmark House of Lords ruling yesterday which will boost damages awards to accident victims by up to 40 per cent.

The law lords ruled that in awarding damages, judges should not assume accident victims can speculate on the stock market in order to secure a good rate of return on their awards. Victims should be entitled to invest awards in low-risk, index-linked government securities which earn a lower rate of return — 3 per cent, as against the expected 4.5 per cent from equities and gilts.

The impact of the ruling — widely welcomed by personal injury lawyers — means that damages awards in cases of accidents affecting earnings will rise substantially.

The Association for British Insurers said last night that the ruling would also bring "substantial increases" in premiums. The largest rises would be in employers' liability insurance, in motor policies — where 15 per cent of money paid out goes in injury claims — and in professional negligence cover for doctors and other professionals.

The association said that one immediate result was likely to be an increase in the estimated £500 million in serious personal injury damage claims facing insurers which are awaiting a decision.

Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Steyn, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Hyde and Lord Hutton, allowed appeals by three victims who all had their damages awards slashed by the Court of Appeal in 1996.

Thelma Wells, a car crash victim, had her award of £1,619,000 cut by £532,000; James Thomas, now eight, who suffered cerebral palsy at birth because of a hospital error, had his award of £1,285,000 cut by £300,000; and Kelvin Page, a steelworker whose award of £906,000 after he was impaled by a metal bar, was cut by £280,000.

The High Court judges who made the original awards accepted evidence that the only safe investments were low-risk, index-linked government securities, and ruled accordingly.

Varsity swim crawls to win by a dead heat

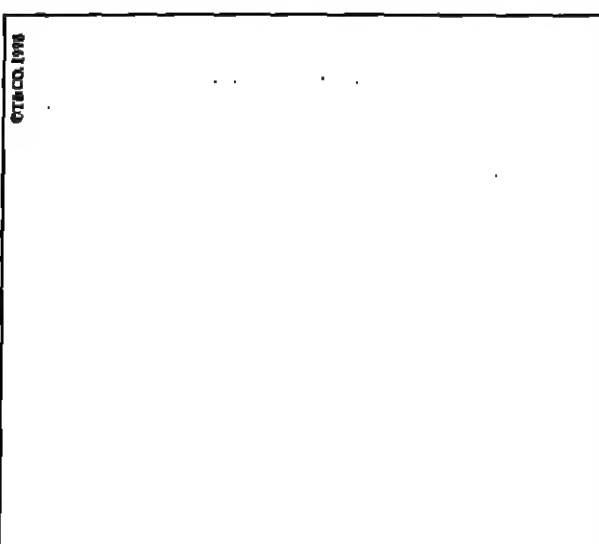
By JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

TO beat a traditional rival by a clear 21 seconds, only to have the race declared a tie, seems a case of taking the Corinthian spirit too far.

Oxford and Cambridge swimmers yesterday battled for more than nine hours through tidal swells, sea-sickness and cold seas in the first Varsity cross-Channel relay race for the sake of a draw. The tie was declared because the Presidents had

agreed that there would be no outright winner if there were less than two minutes between the teams. Martin Davies, the Oxford President, said this was because of the difficulty of exact timing on entering and leaving the water.

Cambridge landed on the east side of Gris-Nez in 9 hrs, 24 mins and 39 secs, with Oxford touching land after 9 hrs 25 mins.



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Police may vet private security guards to patrol the streets

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

PRIVATE security guards could soon be working with the police patrolling high streets, suburbs and housing estates.

Some 50,000 guards would be trained, licenced and regulated by the police, who might also direct their operations. The guards would wear uniforms and badges to make clear to the public that they had been approved by the local force.

The idea was unveiled at a national police conference yesterday and was greeted with enthusiasm by chief constables and Jack Straw, who said that there was a "real possibility" of it going ahead. The Home Secretary added that it would be up to the police, rather than ministers, to decide whether to proceed. If they did, the guards would

supplement rather than replace police patrols.

If the scheme did go ahead — and some officers expect it to be approved this autumn — it would not only bolster police numbers on the streets, but also solve the Government's problem of how to regulate the burgeoning private security industry. Only four years ago, the police attacked the appalling standards and criminal background of some guards. They could now be asked to guarantee the quality of the approved guards.

Security companies and local authorities would pay for the licensing, and senior officers promised yesterday that police numbers would not be cut. However, some officers fear that the scheme would sound the death knell of the traditional bobby on the beat — already a disappearing sight on the streets.

But Mr Straw said: "If you talk to the public, they understand you cannot have a police officer walking up and down their street all day. You never had that. That was a myth about what happened in some golden age."

"Complementary policing" by security firms already existed and the plans were a recognition of reality. Anyone who went into town centres during the day would be aware of private guards and anyone going to a club or bar in the evening would see bouncers.

The question was what role the private industry should have and how this would operate with police. The Home Secretary said that one local authority in the Prime Minister's Sedgefield constituency already ran a private patrol with the police, while Wandsworth Council ran a police force in Battersea Park, south London.

Yesterday senior officers forecast the changes could become national police policy by the autumn. A paper on the plan by Ian Blair, the Surrey Chief Constable, will go before a committee of chief constables within the Association of Chief Police Officers next week.

Leaders of junior ranks will oppose the move and another chief constable has prepared a counter argument. But if, as expected, Mr Blair wins the day, his proposals would go before a meeting of all 43 chief constables in England and Wales in the autumn.

Outlining his plans to Acpo's summer conference in Birmingham yesterday, Mr Blair said that his ideas were intended to launch a debate and suggest a middle course between the current indefensible claim of police to a monopoly of patrolling and the

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Knight at the opera dances delightedly to Kaufman's tune

SOME people believe that, when a select committee grills a witness, there are two sides: committee and witness. This is naive. Sometimes they are both on the same side, gang-ing up on someone else.

Yesterday the Select Committee on Culture, Media and Sport ganged up with Sir Richard Eyre, author of a report on the Royal Opera House, to put the boot into the opera house management and the Secretary of State, Chris Smith.

Ballet must be more popular on the Isle of Sheppey than

we had imagined, for, as soon as Derek Wyatt (Lab. Sittingbourne & Sheppey) was given the chance, he launched into a plea for more and better seats for ballet-goers at Covent Garden.

A big, heavy, shuffling, balding man with a snub nose and specs, Wyatt has played rugby for England, but was difficult to picture in tights. Yet it was soon clear that not only did he care passionately about dance, he was involved himself as an extra in Gerald Kaufman's cunningly choreographed ballet *Death Rites of*

Sir Colin Southgate and his Board — a ballet in which the principal ballerina was Sir Richard Eyre.

Distinguished-looking Sir Richard — dark eyebrows, noble profile, grey hair swept back — danced in and was at once invited by Mr Kaufman to twist. Why should we entrust these boards with public money? Why indeed, agreed the obliging Sir Richard, Mr Kaufman had "rightly indicted" the previous board. And the new board, asked Mr Kaufman, Sir Richard was *sur la pointe* the new



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

lot didn't look much better. In tripped Mr Wyatt. If management at the opera house did not get improve fast, it was a sign they still hadn't got the message! A *jeté* from Sir Richard: "I say so in my report."

But now, at a nod from Mr Kaufman, a clever *pas de chat*: what if the grant were not increased? There would

be ways of meeting this contingency, would there not? Sir Richard offered an arabesque. Indeed there would: much shorter seasons — the house could be hired out for other functions. And we didn't want that, did we?

We could see where Mr Kaufman's dance was going: new management, new money, or else. The types who

have been in charge at the opera house had shown "arrogance and presumption" ("vocabulary more often associated with myself") had they not? A *pivote* from Sir Richard: "I'd certainly infer that conclusion myself."

Let the dance become dull, he arranged for a little bribe: it was perhaps a tad early to condemn Sir Colin Southgate, the new chairman.

But for Mr Kaufman it is never too early to condemn. Was there really "any evidence" the board had "taken a grip", he asked? Sir Richard

offered a *plié* sadly there was still no business plan...

Ronnie Fearn (Lab. Southport) *glisséd* in wearing a white suit. Famous for his roles as a pantomime dame in Southport, it is not impossible to imagine Ronnie in a tutu. National Lottery funding had been described by Sir Richard (he reminded us) as funding "a stainless steel kitchen in a famine" — a "marvellous phrase", *simpered* Mr Fearn. Invited to agree with himself, Sir Richard graciously complied. Invited by Michael Fabricant (C. Lichfield) to

agree that Chris Smith's plan to house the English National Opera under the same roof was absurd, Sir Richard executed a deft *entrechat*: "I took a charitable view; that it was meant to detonate discussion," he smiled.

Another *fouetté* from Mr Kaufman: a swipe at the "narrow social circle" puffing itself up around the royal opera. Well, mused Sir Richard, one could open opera up a bit — "but they'd have to take the risk of someone sitting next to someone in trainers".

Health crusade fails to impress professionals

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government yesterday announced the biggest health crusade the country has seen since the birth of the National Health Service, but was promptly told by doctors, nurses and health service managers it would fail without extra pay.

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, told the Commons that the crusade would improve the quality and care available and promised that there would be no new NHS patient charges in the lifetime of this Parliament.

The £21 billion extra the NHS will receive over the next three years would be enough to recruit 15,000 nurses and 7,600 doctors to treat an extra three million patients, he said.

It would also be enough to provide training places for 6,000 more nurses, make a large increase in numbers of medical students, improve or rebuild 1,000 GP surgeries and modernise outdated hospitals. Thirty new hospitals were planned. There would be a ring-fenced £5 billion for a modernisation programme and £3 billion more, in a different budget, for social services to look after people in the community.

"This is an historic settlement," Mr Dobson said. "It will enable the hard-working and dedicated staff of the NHS and social services to provide the treatment and care that people need and to provide it to a higher standard than ever in every part of the country."

His figures were immediately challenged by Ann Widdecombe, the Shadow Health Secretary, who said the Government was only planning to spend £21 billion more in real terms over Conservative spending trends.

"While welcome as it stands, it is a very long way from the hype and hyperbole of the Chancellor's excitable announcement, which now has

the dubious aroma of a dodgy accountancy scam," she said. Simon Hughes, for the Liberal Democrats, said the NHS needed an extra three per cent each year just to stand still, adding: "An increase of extra spending of 3.7 per cent is clearly helpful but it is no lottery jackpot."

The British Medical Association said Mr Dobson's statement raised more questions than it provided answers to NHS staffing problems. "Where are the extra doctors supposed to come from?" said a spokesman.

"They can't be trained overnight and without better pay or family-friendly employment conditions — which are expensive — there is no way of luring people who have left the NHS back."

Christine Hancock, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, said it was good news that an extra 15,000 nurses were to be recruited, "but my first question is where are these nurses going to come from if we don't tackle pay?"

Stephen Thornton, chief executive of the NHS Confederation, an umbrella body for health authorities and trusts, said the staff could only be recruited from among those

who had dropped out of the service or by scouring Europe. "There is even the spectre of recruiting even further afield from countries like South Africa, where they have a greater need for doctors than we do," he said.

Although Mr Dobson is offering more training places for nurses, last year there was a shortfall of five per cent in the number of candidates for the available places. "We can't fill the places we have at present, let alone find another 6,000 who want to join the profession at present pay rates," a college spokesman said.

He said the Government was also seeking a three per cent year-on-year efficiency gain, which was unlikely to be possible. "Many trusts have made all the efficiency hits they can and they are already threadbare. Some have gone too far, so that quality is being affected. If we are to hit this target we may have to start closing small hospitals in the interests of efficiency, and I am not at all sure that would be a popular road for the Government to go down."

Karen Caines, director of the Institute of Health Service Managers, said the pay issue could wreck the whole deal. "The NHS already faces a critical shortage of doctors and nurses at a time when the Government is looking for massive productivity improvements," she said. "Private sector pay is rising at an average of 6.2 per cent compared with 2.8 per cent for nurses."

She said it was doubtful whether the money available would be able to do all the things promised. "The much-vaunted £5 billion modernisation fund will be spread as thin as jam at Scrooge's tea party," she said.

Leading article, page 23



There's no scaffolding work, but we do have vacancies for doctors



Jack Straw said that the idea of a policeman walking up and down a street all day was a golden myth

Continued from page 1

"creeping unregulated privatisation of security in public places which is now occurring".

Over the past 50 years, police have steadily lost the monopoly of controlling sports events and guarding prisoners and have been replaced in some high streets by private patrols. In ten years' time even more tasks will be lost to local authorities and chief constables have already lost the sole right to decide local policing strategy.

Private street patrols

A survey of the 43 forces last year showed that seven had private patrols operating in residential areas and another 11 had patrols, organised by local councils.

Referring to his own force, Mr Blair suggested that security guards could in future wear "kilt marks" with the words "Surrey Police Complaint". The Welfare to Work programme could be used to

find recruits for security firms and police constables could become the focal point for police and security strategies. They would become managers linking the private sector and local authority staff.

Opposition to the plans will come from Mike O'Byrne, Chief Constable of Bedfordshire, who said yesterday that police would still have to carry out emergency work, and that

setting up the new system would prove costly. "Private security is cheap. Making it more professional would increase costs," Mr O'Byrne added that the public wanted police officers to deal with their problems.

The Police Federation, representing junior officers, also attacked the plans. It said that chief constables were unable to guarantee effective patrolling strengths in their budgets and were looking for ways round the problem.

Irvine defers legal aid plans

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor has deferred plans to withdraw legal aid from accident cases until October next year at the earliest. But Lord Irvine of Lairg is still to go ahead with an expansion of "no win, no fee" work at the earliest opportunity.

The plans, suggested last October, had initially been expected to take effect this April, then this summer. But they have run into a barrage of criticism, from both the legal profession and the consumer bodies.

Lord Irvine pledged last autumn to shake up the £16 billion legal aid scheme by replacing most civil legal aid with "no win, no fee" work. Originally his plans were to remove civil legal aid for all

money disputes, not just accident claims.

But over recent months, the Law Society and Bar have worked to persuade the Government of the difficulties of withdrawing legal aid before the insurance market had fully developed to support "no win, no fee" work.

Lord Irvine agreed to limit the withdrawal of legal aid to accident claims. But it was believed he would ensure this went ahead this autumn at the latest. Yesterday he announced he was working towards a target date of autumn 1999. Lord Irvine has clearly been persuaded by arguments that replacing legal aid by conditional fees needs time.

But he announced he would go ahead with a wholesale

expansion of "no win, no fee" work.

Lord Irvine said: "To achieve maximum benefit from the money available, the Government is determined to ensure that legal aid is not spent in purchasing legal services where a suitable alternative exists. It believes that conditional fees provide a suitable alternative, particularly in a range of money claims."

But there needed to be a "measured approach" to developing conditional fees in place of legal aid, particularly in personal injury cases.

A spokesman for his department insisted that no date had previously been given for the withdrawal of legal aid for personal injury claims. The Lord Chancellor also

announced that he was minded to seek legislation as soon as possible enabling people who bring successful claims to recoup from insurers both the insurance premium they take out and the extra fee they have to pay their solicitors.

Heather Hallett, QC, Bar chairman, and Vicky Chapman, head of policy at the Legal Action Group, welcomed the announcement.

Reforms to cut the length and cost of fraud trials, including specialist fraud judges, were called for by the Director of the Serious Fraud Office yesterday. In her annual report, Rosalind Wright also called for the law to be modernised to cope with advances in electronic banking and computers.

Peers ask Queen to pardon Guardsmen

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Queen will next week be urged by peers to invoke a rarely used power of royal pardon to free two Scots Guardsmen serving life sentences for the murder of a Catholic teenager in Belfast.

The House of Lords will be asked to present "an Humble Address" to the Queen asking her to exercise the Royal Prerogative of Mercy to release James Fisher and Mark Wright. The soldiers were jailed for life in 1995 after shooting Peter McBride, an unarmed 18-year-old who they say they suspected of carrying a bomb, as he ran from a foot patrol in 1992.

The idea of using the prerogative has come from Lord Campbell of Alloway, a senior Tory lawyer, who has won the support of many peers, including two former Chiefs of Defence Staff, Lord Bramall and Lord Inge. Lord Campbell will present the motion on Monday.

The Royal Prerogative dates from

the Middle Ages, when monarchs could issue a pardon on their own initiative. Since the mid-19th century, however, the sovereign can only exercise the prerogative on the advice of senior ministers, in this case Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary.

The prerogative was used occasionally earlier this century to commute death sentences to life imprisonment, but has fallen into disuse since the abolition of capital punishment in 1965.

In May, the High Court in Belfast rejected a request that the cases should be referred immediately to the Life Sentence Review Board, which is due to consider them in October. Although Ms Mowlam last week unexpectedly announced a fresh review of the cases, peers believe that the Royal Prerogative is the best mechanism which the Government can use to free the soldiers quickly.

Laureate in line for £10,000 poetry prize

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Poet Laureate has been shortlisted again for the £10,000 Forward Prize for poetry. On a list of five — whittled down from 119 collections — Sir Ted Hughes will be competing against Anne Carson, Gwyneth Lewis, Derek Mahon and Glyn Maxwell for the Best Collection in Britain's leading poetry awards.

He was picked for *Birthday Letters* — last year, it was for *Tales from Ovid*, which also won the Whitbread and WH Smith awards.

The Forward Prizes, worth a total of £16,000, were established seven years ago by William Sieghart, chairman of Forward Publishing and founder of National Poetry Day, "to bring the public's attention to contemporary poetry".

Apart from the Best Collection category, there is a £5,000 for the Best First Collection and £1,000 for the Best Single Poem. The judges include the poet Simon Armitage

and novelist Josephine Hart. Ms Carson, who was born in Canada and is a classics professor at McGill University in Montreal, was shortlisted for *Glass and God*, her first full-length collection in Britain. Michael Ondaatje has described her as "the most exciting poet writing in English today".

Ms Lewis, a television producer, writes in both Welsh, her first language, and English: she was picked for *Zero Gravity*, which Joseph Brodsky has called "felicitous, urbane, heartbreaking". Mr Mahon, born in Belfast, was picked for *The Yellow Book*, and Mr Maxwell, who comes from Hertfordshire and teaches poetry at Amherst College in Massachusetts, impressed the judges with *The Breakage*.

The winners will be announced on October 7.

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Lawrence officer 'did not know suspects'

By LIN JENKINS

A SENIOR police officer who liaised with the family of Stephen Lawrence told the inquiry into the murder of the black teenager that he did not know who the prime suspects were until they were named by a national newspaper.

Commander Raymond Adams said yesterday that he learnt of their identities only after the *Daily Mail* named them under the headline "Murderers".

He said his only role in the investigation was to help to compose a letter to Imran Khan, the family's solicitor. But, he said, he had no information of how the inquiry was proceeding.

Mr Khan had asked whether arrests were imminent. Mr Adams said he would not have thought that such information would be passed to a victim's family. He had not sought to find out about the progress of the inquiry.

"It was my job to set up how it

could be discussed, if it was going to be discussed at all," he said.

As director of criminal intelligence at the Metropolitan Police SO11 during 1987 and 1988 he had worked with officers involved in the Lawrence inquiry. But he said that despite learning that Clifford Norris, the father of one suspect, was wanted at the time, he had "zero knowledge" of him.

Within days of writing the letter to Mr Khan, where he and another officer were identified as those who could help with his inquiries, Mr Adams went on permanent sick leave.

He said that despite a severe back problem he had wanted to continue working, but was told by Deputy Assistant Commissioner David Osland that he would have to go permanently sick. He is now director of risk management at Kroll Associates.

The inquiry continues.

Diana prayers

Diana, Princess of Wales, will be remembered in prayer at Westminster Abbey on August 31, the anniversary of her death. Prayers will also be said for the Princess and her family on the anniversary of her funeral, which was held at the Abbey on September 6 and televised to a worldwide audience. A Westminster Abbey spokesman said: "It is the Church's custom to remember the departed in prayer."

Rare dustjacket

A first edition of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, complete with its dustjacket, sold for £80,700 at Sotheby's in central London. Sotheby's said the book alone was worth about £3,000 and the remaining amount was paid for the rare dustjacket. The amount is thought to be a world record for a book in a dustjacket. It was sold to an American dealer.

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Teacher 'bullied by staff' wins £100,000

A FORMER deputy head teacher won more than £100,000 damages yesterday in the first case of its kind after claiming he was bullied by colleagues.

Anthony Ratcliffe, 48, blamed his experiences for two mental breakdowns which forced him to give up teaching. Solicitors reached an out-of-court settlement with his former employers after claims that he was isolated, ignored and subjected to a series of practical jokes.

Mr Ratcliffe, who taught at Sageston County Primary in Carew, near Pembroke, Wales, claimed that he made a target of by the headmistress, Jean Morris, from his first day. He alleged that he was treated as an "outsider" by the Welsh headmistress and staff because he was English.

Among the incidents of which he complained was a Christmas party at which he said he was asked to give an elderly spinster and former teacher a wrapped present - which turned out to be a six-inch chocolate penis.

Mr Ratcliffe, who barely knew the woman involved, said he was horrified to discover what the gift was and deeply embarrassed that she might think that it had been his idea. At the same party, a bottle of wine he brought in was relabelled "Randy Brandy", adding to his discomfort, he claimed.

Mr Ratcliffe, whose case was taken up by the Associ-

Victoria Fletcher on English deputy head who claims that his Welsh colleagues drove him to breakdown

ation of Teachers and Lecturers, said that the torment went on for more than a year. "The bullying led to my breakdown and it got to the point where I couldn't teach any more," he said yesterday.

"I was embarrassed to be bullied by a woman. One morning I came downstairs and could not go through my front door to work. For the first time I began to cry and by the end of the week I had cracked."

"I joined the school as a confident, competent person, looking forward to promotion through the education system. I took great pleasure in seeing children develop and it is a great loss that will never be able to be replaced."

Martin Pilkington, head of the legal team of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said: "This is the first case where a teacher has settled a claim based on allegations of bullying for a six-figure sum. It demonstrates that employers have to take the issue of bullying and harassment at work very seriously indeed."

The council had not accepted that there was any negligence on its part or that the head's actions amounted to a breach of contract, and had

claimed that Mr Ratcliffe's breakdown was the result of inherent personality problems. But it agreed the out-of-court settlement after the Association of Teachers and Lecturers started proceedings in the High Court.

Education officials said yesterday that, despite the settlement, Mr Ratcliffe's allegations were still denied. Pembrokeshire County Council, which took over from Dyfed County Council, Mr Ratcliffe's former employer, said: "Throughout, the council has not accepted the allegations made by Mr Ratcliffe and the proceedings have been strenuously resisted."

"The insurers and Mr Ratcliffe have, however, now agreed to settle this case without the necessity of a court hearing. Such an agreement does not alter the position in that the council continues to reject the allegations made by Mr Ratcliffe."

Norman Parry, a county councillor who is vice-chairman of governors at Sageston primary, said he had his "complete confidence" in his head teacher, management and staff. "These allegations refer to matters that occurred some years ago and I know

that Sageston school is a happy, successful and caring school," he said.

"None of these allegations has ever been proved and they have been refused all along. It is a great shame that this whole matter has had to be washed out in public like this. A settlement was made and that should be the end of the matter."

The association said that Mr Ratcliffe suffered a minor breakdown in October 1992 and Dyfed County Council sent him back to Sageston in July 1993, although it knew he wanted to be moved to another school. The teacher then suffered a second breakdown. It was claimed that a support plan worked out for him by the council was not properly implemented.

Mr Ratcliffe, formerly a technology teacher and now a self-employed kitchen fitter, will receive £101,028. "My life and that of my family has been shattered. But our love for each other has certainly helped us through it," he said.

His solicitor, Susan Wilde, said after the case that bullying in the workplace was "a huge problem" for teachers. "Head teachers have enormous scope to bully."

The settlement was criticised by Sheila Gregory, whose children attend the school. "The amount of compensation is just disgraceful. Just think how schoolbooks or computers could have been bought with it," she said.



Anthony Ratcliffe with his wife Jean. He is now a self-employed kitchen fitter.

Officer suspended for Vinnie Jones leak

By Richard Ford

A PROBATION service worker who organised the community service of Vinnie Jones, the football player, has been suspended after allegedly selling the details to a newspaper.

The community service officer, based at Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, was arrested with another person on Wednesday. A picture of Jones appeared in *The Mirror* on the same day. Both have been released on police bail pending further inquiries.

Jones, 33, player-assistant manager at Queens Park Rangers, was sentenced earlier this month to 100 hours unpaid work after being convicted of assaulting a neighbour near his home in Hemel Hempstead. He has been painting and refurbishing local community buildings. He was also ordered by St Albans magistrates to pay £400 compensation to Timothy Gear for punching and biting him.

Geoff Dobson, chief probation officer in Hertfordshire, said: "Following police inquiries into the unauthorised divulging of information about Mr Jones's placement, I can confirm that a community service officer has been suspended."

Man tried to poison colleagues over snub

By Simon de Bruxelles

A MAN tried to poison the scientists he worked for because they never offered him a cup of tea.

William Smith, 57, a maintenance engineer employed in the biology laboratories at Exeter University, poured mercury into their kettle. Yesterday the case against him was dropped after Exeter Crown Court was told that he admitted the offence and had agreed to accept a police caution.

He told police he had believed the mercury would have a laxative effect. Medical experts say the scientists could have been poisoned. Smith had become upset that staff made themselves tea but did not offer him a cup. He was accused of "maliciously and unlawfully attempting to cause scientist Martin Truscott-Evans and others to take a poison or other noxious thing, namely mercury, with the intent to injure, aggrieve or annoy them".

Jonathan Barnes, for the prosecution, said: "We have considered whether it is in the public interest to proceed and decided to offer no evidence. This defendant agreed to be cautioned. This can only be done if he accepts his guilt. He is a man of limited intellect and that was an important consideration. We are satisfied he had no intention to do any serious injury."

"The Crown accept he had no concept of the seriousness of what he did. Fortunately there was no injury, but lest anyone takes the view that what he did was safe, mercury is undoubtedly dangerous." Smith has since been dismissed.

Florida suspect arrested after copycat rape

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

POLICE in Florida yesterday arrested a 39-year-old man accused of raping a British woman at gunpoint in her motel on Monday, after shutting her male companion in the bathroom.

Kenneth Taylor was held at his Orlando home hours after a rape involving an Austrian couple, which police believe he may have been involved in.

An arrest warrant for Mr Taylor was issued after the British couple identified him from police photographs. "He was arrested without resistance at his home and is now in custody," Commander Pam Roush, head of investigations at Kissimmee Police Department, said.

Mr Taylor is charged with armed robbery, sexual battery and false imprisonment. If convicted he could be sentenced to more than 20 years in jail. He may face more charges because he is a suspect for at least six similar rapes in the Orlando area in the past five weeks. He is

being questioned about those crimes and the attack on the Austrian tourists on Wednesday night.

Police said that Mr Taylor had a criminal record stretching back more than a decade. He was jailed in 1986 for armed robbery, sexual assault and kidnapping. He was released in 1987.

He was arrested in Orlando last month on prowling charges and released a few days later.

The names of the British couple are being withheld to protect their privacy. They are in their 20s and from Middlesex. They were attacked soon after checking in to their hotel in Kissimmee, a few miles from Disney World, for a two-week holiday.

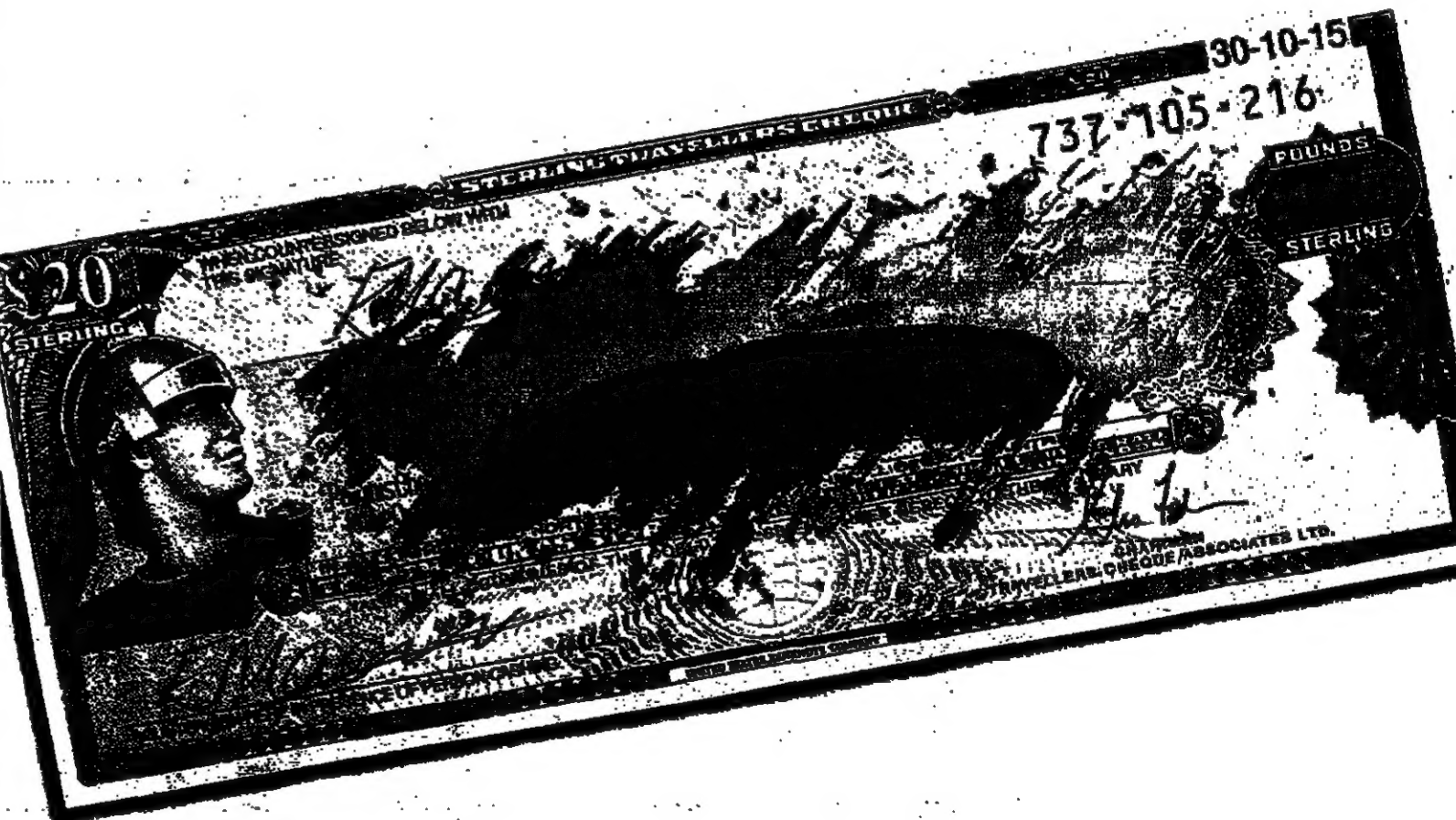
They requested an iron from the front desk and left their door ajar while they waited for it to be delivered. A man barged his way into the room, pointed a pistol at them and ordered them to hand over their money and remove their clothes.

When a hotel worker knocked on the door with the iron, the man calmly accepted it without causing suspicion, police said. After being forced to perform sex acts, the British man was allegedly into the bathroom while the woman was raped. The attacker fled with \$175.

The couple have stayed in the Orlando area to help the police investigation. They are in the care of a "victim advocate" provided by the local health service to help people to cope with traumatic events.



Photofit issued after sex attack on Britons



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Lonely wait of forgotten patient who got the needle

By Simon de Bruxelles

IT LOOKED like there was a long night ahead for Diane Thomas as she lay alone and forgotten in a doctor's treatment room, with more than a dozen acupuncture needles stuck in her.

A doctor had positioned the needles, then told her to lie still and said he would be back in 40 minutes. Instead he was called to an emergency and forgot about her.

Mrs Thomas, 33, lay on the couch in her underwear, too terrified to move, as the surgery lights were turned off and staff locked up for the night at the Pontcae surgery in Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales. Her cries for help went unheeded behind the door of the sound-proofed room. Fortunately, the human pincushion was

found after 90 minutes by a cleaner doing her final rounds for the night. The housewife, who was having the treatment for sciatica, said yesterday: "She was very surprised to see me."

Unfortunately, Mrs Thomas then had to wait for the needles to be removed as her doctor could not be contacted, and the cleaners had to track down the practice's senior partner.

Her doctor, Kevin Thomas, has recently taken a course in the ancient Chinese therapy. He had inserted needles into his patient's neck, back, ankles and wrists. By the time the surgery closed at 6.30pm, he had not returned from an urgent home visit. Mrs Thomas said: "I shouted and shouted but no one was

there. I was getting very worried but I didn't want to move in case I pushed the needles in further. I was very relieved when the cleaner walked in."

Mrs Thomas was found at 7.15pm but then had to wait for the needles to be removed by Dr Hefin Jones, the practice's senior partner. Dr Jones, who has apologised for the incident, said: "I removed the needles even though Chinese medicine is a bit esoteric for me. By the time I'd done it, Dr Thomas had remembered and was on his way to the surgery. Mrs Thomas has taken it very well."

The surgery has brought in new procedures. Doctors will use a timer, and a small handbell will be placed within the patient's reach.

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Judge
insect-



Spectators watch Ian Woosnam in action at the seventh green yesterday in the opening round of the Open at Royal Birkdale. Tiger Woods shared the lead after a round of 65. Woods rampant, page 52

Judge checks in at 'insect-ridden' hotel

A JUDGE was making legal history today after travelling to Malta to stay at a hotel at the centre of a compensation claim. It is said to have dirty bedrooms, cockroaches and a constant smell of sewage.

After hearing conflicting evidence about the Palm Court Hotel, District Judge Anthony Cleary decided the only solution was to fly to Malta with lawyers from both sides. Announcing the decision at Birmingham County Court, he adjourned the case until Monday. It is believed to be the first case to involve a foreign site inspection.

Malta Sun Holidays is paying for the judge's trip. The company, based in London, is being sued by three families who stayed at the hotel in Qawra two years ago. The hotel, owned by Albert Borg, Malta Sun's managing director, was the subject of a BBC Television *Watchdog* programme last year.

The families — the Bannisters from Sutton Coldfield in

Malta trip to look into complaints by British tourists is making legal history, reports Helen Johnstone

the West Midlands, the Blys from Bury near Manchester, and the Osborns from Saffron Walden, Essex — are seeking £3,500 for the cost of their holidays, plus damages. They claim that the their holidays were ruined by cockroaches, dirty bedrooms and poor service in the three-star, 350-bedroom hotel, which was more like a prison complex.

The holiday company denies the claims and has produced witnesses who said they enjoyed their stay.

However, the Birmingham firm of solicitors handling the case has been contacted by more than 150 other families wanting to take similar action against the company. Ros Ferrilough, the families' lawyer who is in Malta, on the

visit, said yesterday: "It is the first time an inspection abroad has taken place, but it has a lot to do with the number of cases pending and that it was important to establish the full facts."

"Malta Sun produced a group of elderly witnesses who said their stay was wonderful. They also backed it up with a promotional video apparently showing how pleasant it was. To the judge it must have seemed as if we were talking about different hotels, so it was decided that a site inspection would be appropriate."

One of the main complaints was about plumbing and sanitation. One person claimed there were big holes in the bath and another said there

was a constant smell of sewage.

"There was no aspect of the holiday that was enjoyable. It is described as a three-star hotel, but the Maltese Tourist board says improvements would have to be made for it to qualify for that rating."

Ms Fernibough said Malta Sun had offered to pay for the two-day visit, but she declined, to ensure there was no conflict of interests. Mike Smith, operations manager for Malta Sun Holidays, said: "The judge and the lawyers will have free access throughout the two days. Hopefully this will help to shed light on the complaints and we are confident it will help us to win the case. We offered to pay the costs for all the parties, but after advice the representative for the plaintiff declined the offer."

A similar offer was extended to the judge and a spokesman for the Lord Chancellor's Department confirmed that the defendant, Malta Sun Holidays, was paying for his trip.

Girls and boys are equals at truant

By JOHN O'LEARY

GIRLS are as likely as boys to play truant and leave school without qualifications, according to a report that challenges the prevailing view of underachievement in education.

Girls are establishing a lead at the top level of academic performance, but gender differences are minimal at the lowest level, says the study *Wasted Youth*, by the Institute for Public Policy Research. Although boys are more likely to be expelled, girls and boys drop out at 16 in equal numbers.

The report calls for reduced boundaries between school and work, including mandatory traineeships for 16 to 18-year-olds and business units in schools. Under-achievers are said to be neglected because schools are encouraged to focus too much on average pupils.

Education, page 44

'Sacked' secretary wins deal from sheikh's firm

By MARK HENDERSON

A SECRETARY who lost her job with the royal family of Dubai after having a baby has settled her compensation claim for an undisclosed sum.

Brenda Maddock, 42, from West Hampstead, North London, was personal assistant to John Leat, who looks after the United Kingdom interests of the racehorse owner Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum. However, when she returned from maternity leave in 1994, she found her temporary replacement had been offered a permanent post.

Ms Maddock had claimed compensation for sexual discrimination, unfair dismissal and loss of earnings at an industrial tribunal, which was halted yesterday after she reached agreement with her former employers on Wednesday.

Ms Maddock had to give up a salary of £20,000 a year plus perks and cash bonuses worth more than £100,000 a year, and was left with no way of paying off a £117,000 interest-free loan she had taken out

from her employers to buy a home, she had told the tribunal.

Her duties had included entertaining guests at Royal Ascot, organising society parties and on one occasion buying personal gifts for Sheikh Mohammed to give to the Aga Khan. Her perks included access for herself and up to 16 guests to Royal Ascot.

The sheikh also allowed her to furnish her own house with items from his Berkshire country mansion and even paid the £10,000 bill for her wedding.

She was among many employees to benefit from interest-free loans of up to £200,000 to help with home purchases, which were then paid off with £10,000 cash bonuses each year, the tribunal was told.

"It was standard procedure for me to receive a bonus at the end of the flat season at Ascot of up to £10,000 in cash," she said. "The payments were described as 'bungs'. There was no documentation and we did not have to sign for them."

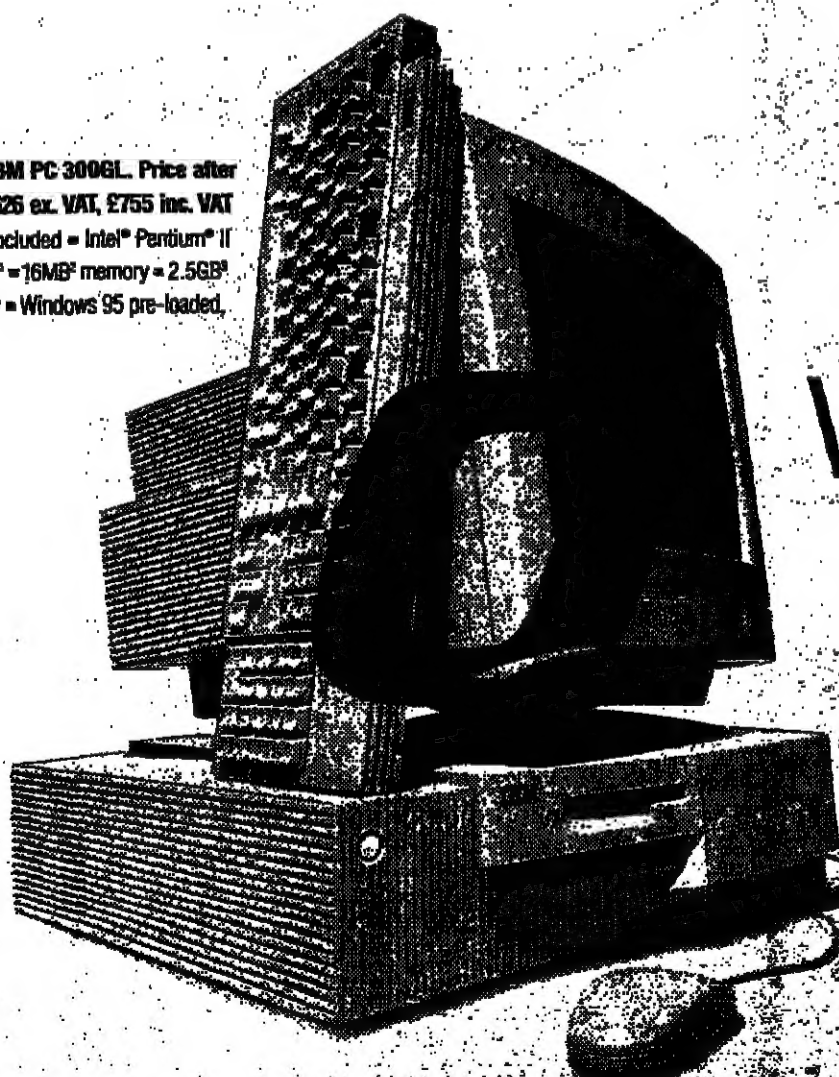
Her employers had said she refused to take her original job back and had demanded a promotion on her return.



Brenda Maddock paid for house with bonuses

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Boy wins deportation reprieve

Letters written
by classmates
have swung
official decision,
writes Dominic
Kennedy

A BOY aged eight who has spent most of his life in Britain was temporarily spared deportation to Cameroon last night after a letter-writing campaign by his classmates.

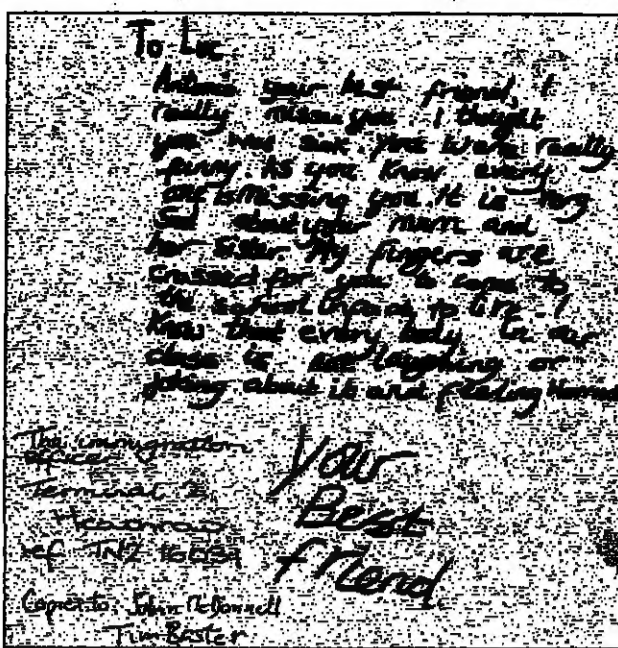
Luc Mangoum, who last week appeared in his school's production of *Romeo and Juliet*, was to have been expelled at 8pm after his aunt and guardian, Marie Therese, lost her final appeal for asylum. With two hours to go, the London Detainees Support Group was told the deportation order had been delayed for 48 hours so that the boy's fate could be studied again.

Staff and pupils had pleaded in letters to the Home Office to let him stay in Britain with another aunt, Esther, and her young son and daughter, whom the boy regards as his best friends. Esther too is an asylum seeker.

The boy has lived with Marie Therese since he was



Luc Mangoum, who faces being sent back to Cameroon, and a poignant letter of friendship from a classmate



two. The whereabouts of his parents are unknown. Campaigners say they believe his father has had political difficulty in Cameroon. They also fear his guardian would be detained in Cameroon, leaving the boy without her care.

In April 1994, he joined the reception class at Middle Row Primary School in North Kensington, West London, where the roll card includes pupils

from 21 countries. A letter sent by staff and pupils to the Immigration Service reads: "This is a young child whose social and educational experience has been almost entirely in this country, and his interests and ambitions reflect this."

"He sees himself as being English — indeed, during the recent World Cup, while other children in school supported a variety of countries, he was

one of the few who consistently supported England! We feel it would be cruel and damaging for him to be arbitrarily uprooted from the only life he knows." A sheaf of letters was sent to the immigration officer at Heathrow Airport to be passed to the boy before he was to have left.

The boy's sudden removal from his home came as a surprise to teachers, who at

first did not realise why he failed to attend class. He has a good attendance record. Detaining a child is rare. The Harmondsworth detention centre near Heathrow held about 12 children aged from six months to seven years between September 1996 and May this year, most of them with their mothers.

A letter from a boy who describes himself as Luc's best

friend says: "I really miss you. I thought you were sick. You were really funny. I know that everybody in our class is not laughing or joking about it and feeling worried."

Clare Tappin, his form teacher, said: "He doesn't want to go. He would far rather stay here. He doesn't speak French any more. Luc is a very friendly, outgoing child. He loves football. He took a very important dancing part in our production of *Romeo and Juliet* last week, where he was much appreciated."

"He is a totally innocent little boy. He knows nothing about what is happening. He wants to be here. He is probably going back on to the streets. It is a dreadful situation."

The delay in deportation to allow more facts to be gathered on the boy's case followed communication between John McDonnell, MP, whose constituency includes the detention centre, and Michael O'Brien, the Home Office Minister.

Karen Buck, the boy's local MP, cautioned against deporting him. "No one wants to see a child uprooted from the place that has become his home," she said.

The Home Office said last night: "His deportation has been stayed pending consideration of representations made on his behalf."

Solicitor in jail over World Cup crash in Paris

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS AND FRANCES GIBB

A SOLICITOR was yesterday jailed in Paris after a magistrate opened an investigation into a charge that he drunkenly drove into a crowd celebrating France's World Cup win on the Champs-Élysées.

Dipak Jotangia was taken to La Santé prison still clad in the blue football shirt of the French team which he had been wearing on the night of the incident. The magistrate, Marie-Hélène Cheneau, is investigating charges of "deliberate violence".

According to police, Mr Jotangia, who was in Paris for the final, had been drinking in a bar near the Champs-Élysées until about 1am on Monday, when he returned to his Alfa Romeo and then crashed into celebrating fans on the boulevard. Police tests apparently showed that he had 0.96 grammes of alcohol per litre of blood, more than twice the legal limit for driving. Ten people were injured, including four trainee po-

licemen and two Americans, but all were released from hospital within 48 hours.

The Foreign Office said: "Mr Jotangia has been arrested and charged in Paris this morning but we are waiting for more details from the French authorities."

The incident happened not far from the spot where another driver crashed her car into the crowd, killing one person and injuring 80. Jean-René Farhouat, Mr Jotangia's French lawyer, said that he expected his client to be released quickly since none of the victims had suffered major injuries.

Mr Jotangia, who was born in Mombasa but lives in North London, is a criminal law specialist in his mid-thirties and a partner in a London law firm, Lakhania and Company.

□ In Marseilles, four English football hooligans were given jail terms of between two weeks and two months for violence at the England-Tunisia match.

Tory MP fined by Law Society

BY FRANCES GIBB AND ANDREW PIERCE

A NEWLY PROMOTED member of the Shadow Cabinet was yesterday fined £1,000 by the Law Society after admitting conduct unbefitting a solicitor.

The penalty was handed out to Gary Streeter, 43, only one month after he took over the Shadow Cabinet international development portfolio. Mr Streeter, a former Parliamentary Private Secretary to John Major, admitted the breach after accepting instructions to act for a client whose interests conflicted, or appeared likely to conflict, with other clients for whom he acted.

William Hague, who was aware of the Law Society hearing when he promoted Mr Streeter, is not planning any disciplinary action. "It is a technical offence," a senior Tory official said. "There was no reprimand." Mr Streeter

said last night: "It was a technical breach but I wish, I wish, it had never happened."

Roger Field, for the Law Society, told a Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal in London: "It was a conflict of interest par excellence." Allegations — first disclosed on *The Lawyer* magazine website this week — arose in 1991 when Mr Streeter, the MP for South West Devon, was working as a solicitor with the Plymouth firm Foot & Bowden. Mr Streeter, now a consultant with Foot & Bowden, advised two companies — M.G.C. Technical Services, owned by David and Lynda Moss, and Ivens Electronics, owned by Trevor and Jane Ivens.

The hearing was told that the two companies faced financial difficulties and had decided to merge under the new name of Ridgewood In-



Streeter, fined £1,000 over conflict of interest

dustries Ltd in 1991. Mr Streeter had helped to set up a "shell" company, Footlaw 26, to assist the merger. It became Ridgewood Industries Ltd.

In June 1991, Mr Streeter was asked to advise Mrs Moss in a mortgage application. Mr Field said: "There was a multiplicity of interests here,

and had Mr Streeter stepped back and analysed it, he would have realised he could not properly represent her and the other clients. His position was impossible."

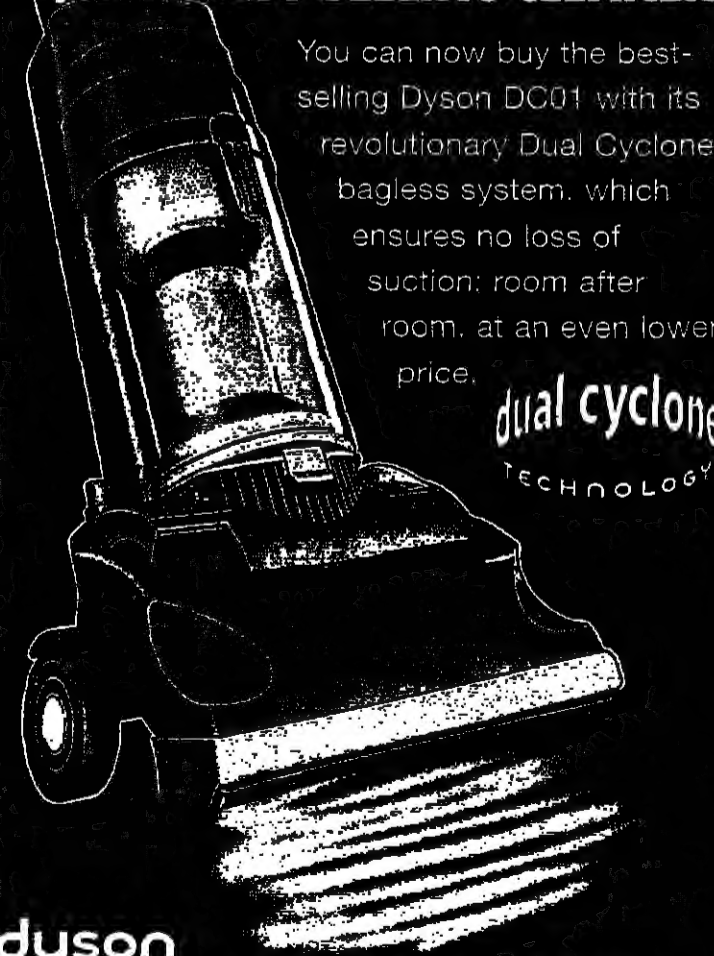
Mr Streeter had a duty to reveal relevant facts to Mrs Moss about her application, including some financial problems of the company, but equally owed a duty to the companies to keep them informed of relevant facts, he said. The hearing was told that Mrs Moss was in no way "prejudiced" by Mr Streeter's actions. Mr Field said: "There is no suggestion of dishonesty and nothing to suggest his integrity is in question."

Mr Streeter, who became an MP in 1992, said: "With the benefit of hindsight, I accept it would have been wise to advise Mrs Moss to go to another solicitor, even though I believe she would have received the same advice."

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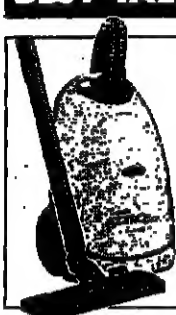
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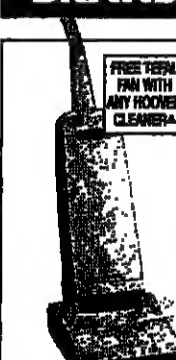
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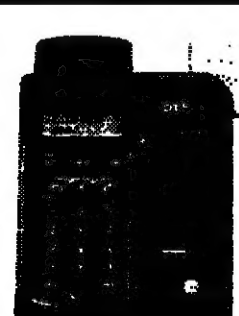
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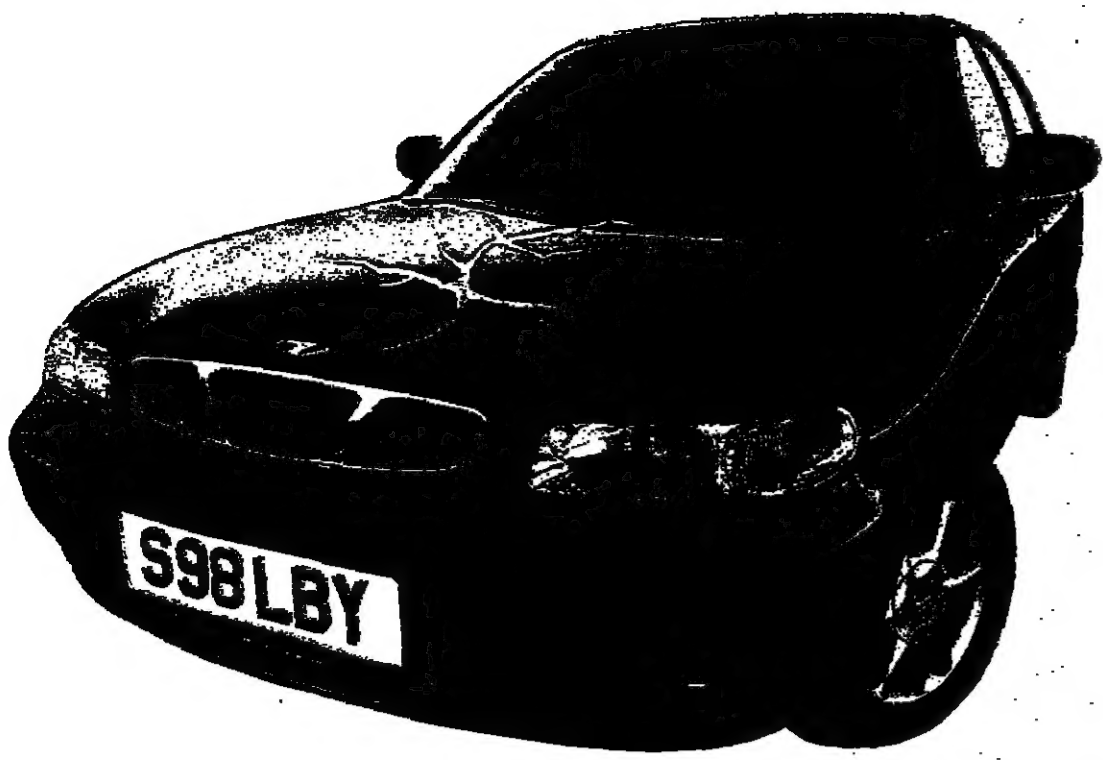
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DAEWOO

Disaffected IRA men threaten the peace

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE threat to Northern Ireland's fragile peace posed by dissident republican terrorists has been growing while attention has been focused on the Drumcree crisis, security sources said yesterday.

In recent days the so-called Real IRA attempted three bomb attacks, any one of which could have pushed the tense Province over the brink had it succeeded. The group has attracted as many as 100 active members since its formation by the Provisional IRA's former quartermaster general last autumn. Most are disaffected Provisionals from the Irish Republic. The group has forged links to the Continuity IRA and the Irish National Liberation Army, republican splinter groups that share its strong opposition to a peace process that has in their view cemented Ireland's partition.

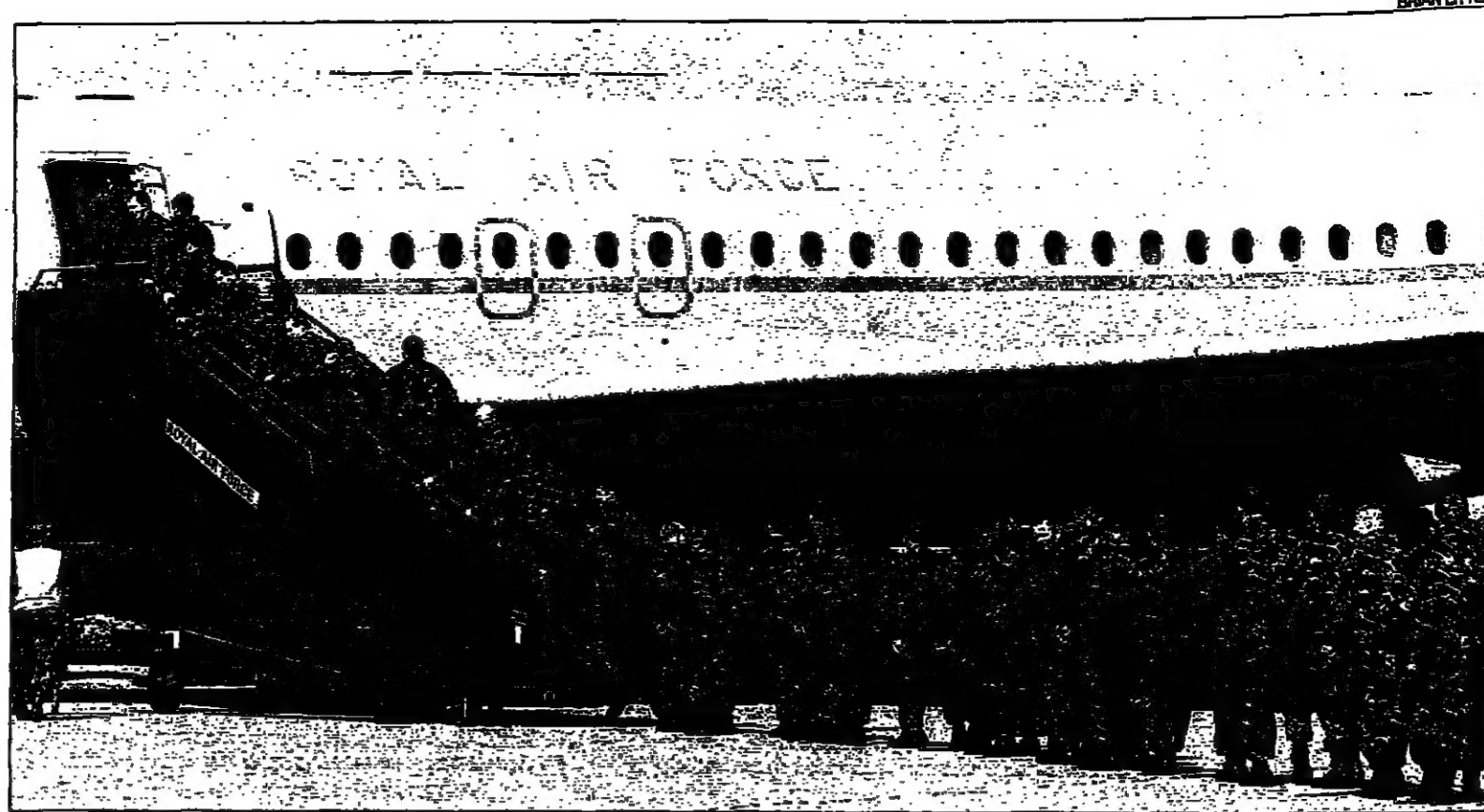
Downing Street said yesterday that it welcomed recent signals that the Provisional IRA may soon begin to decommission some of its weapons. However, sources said that there were no new signals

since last month's hint by the IRA's "commanding officer" in the Maze of eventual voluntary disarmament if the peace accord was fully implemented, and a report in the *Irish Times* that the Provisionals were preparing to identify the graves of those they had abducted and killed during the Troubles.

In recent months the "Real IRA" has carried out half a dozen bomb and mortar attacks on towns in Northern Ireland, and the Irish police have intercepted about ten car bombs destined for Northern Ireland or England. "They pose a serious threat," one senior security official said. "They are a very real concern."

Most of the group's senior members are well-known to the security forces, but it is now attempting to foil the authorities by recruiting young republicans with no record of terrorism.

Two days after incendiary devices were recovered in London, the security forces found a 1,400lb bomb hidden in a builder's trailer near Armagh City. The police sus-



The 1st Battalion The Kings Regiment returning to base near Blackpool after eight days patrolling Belfast during the Drumcree disturbances

pect that the device had been abandoned because of the heightened security during the Drumcree crisis. On Monday a 500lb car bomb was found and defused in Newry.

The group, whose stronghold is just south of the border in Co Louth, has also been co-operating with the Irish National Liberation Army and the Continuity IRA to extend its reach into Northern Ireland. Members of all three groups were seen at the funeral of a "Real IRA" member shot dead while trying to rob a van in Co Wicklow in April. "The link-up with INLA gives them a small 'in' into places such as

Belfast and Londonderry where they'd not have any strength," one official said.

Though the INLA claimed responsibility for the car bomb that destroyed the centre of Newtownhamilton in Co Armagh on the eve of last month's elections to Northern Ireland's Assembly, officials are sure the "Real IRA" was involved in its preparation.

The Irish police have had notable successes against the "Real IRA", including April's interception of a 1,000lb car bomb that was being driven on to a ferry and may have been destined for the Grand National. But the rebels came

close to destabilising the peace process earlier this year with bombs in Enniskillen, Moira, Portadown, and with mortar attacks on security bases.

It remains unclear how much unofficial help the "Real IRA" is receiving from among the Provisionals. It has acquired Semtex, previously possessed only by the Provisionals, and has operated with apparent impunity in certain IRA strongholds.

The "Real IRA" has links to the 32-County Sovereignty Committee whose spokesman is Bernadette Sands, sister of the hunger-striker Bobby Sands who died in 1981.

Company fined over outlawed hotline

By MARK HENDERSON

A TELEPHONE hotline company has been fined £2,500 and banned from operating premium-rate services for a year after being caught running outlawed promotions for the second time in a month.

The Independent Committee for the Supervision of Telephone Information Services took the action against First Phone, based in High Wycombe. Buckinghamshire, following complaints from consumers who had received a letter telling them that they had won up to £1,600.

Recipients had to ring a premium-rate line costing £1 a minute to find out how to claim their prize, but the cost of the call was stated only in tiny print at the foot of the letter, in breach of the committee's rules. The letter promised a "guaranteed payout" of between £100 and £1,600 in cash or free gifts such as holidays and Rolex watches. Callers to the 0906 hotline were told they would qualify for a free personal telephone number with First Phone.

Last month, First Phone was fined £1,500 and banned from operating a similar line for six months after an investigation by the committee found that the company could not prove it was able to supply television sets and cash offered to consumers who signed up for a personal number.

First Phone was not available for comment yesterday.

ARRESTS OVER ARSON MURDERS

Two more local men were arrested yesterday in connection with Sunday's murder of the three young Quinn brothers in an arson attack on their home in Ballymoney (Martin Fletcher writes). A total of three men are now being held while a fourth has been released.

President Clinton, who plans to revisit Northern Ireland in September, has sent a letter to Chrissie Quinn, the boys' mother. It

read: "I know that it is impossible to make sense of this senseless act or to soothe with words the loss of your sons, but I want you to know that peace-loving people everywhere, here in America and around the world, mourn your loss and share your grief. Your family's tragedy redoubles our determination to do all we can to make sure that others need not have to experience what you are so courageously facing."

Army cadet death under scrutiny

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

THE Army is investigating whether procedures should be tightened after a post-mortem examination confirmed that a Sandhurst officer cadet died from heat exhaustion.

Graham Holmes, 23, died on Wednesday two weeks after collapsing at the end of a seven-mile march as part of endurance exercises at the Royal Military Academy. His death is the first from heat exhaustion in its 250-year history.

An inquest is to be opened today. The condition of another officer cadet is improving: Adrian Muir, 22, was taken to hospital on Wednesday after an eight-mile march.

The Ministry of Defence said: "If anything comes out of our inquiry we will act on it, although we are fairly satisfied that all that should be done is done." Any recommendation by the coroner would be taken up.

Solicitor cleared over gun struggle

By PAUL WILKINSON

A LAWYER who pulled a loaded gun on his girlfriend's jealous husband was yesterday cleared of possessing the weapon with intent to endanger life.

Gareth Jessop admitted confronting Robert Towersey with the Colt 45 after Towersey had smashed his way into his home, but said that he had armed himself only because he feared for his life.

Bradford Crown Court was told that two weeks earlier Towersey had struck his wife with the hilt of a diver's knife and rammed Mr Jessop's car.

Afterwards Mr Jessop and Towersey's wife, Julia, who has since divorced him, went on holiday for a week. When they returned in June last year they discovered a letter from Towersey saying "I've had enough". They were terrified and decided to keep the gun on a hall table, for protection.

Towersey, 31, forced his way into Mr Jessop's house in Reddish, near Stockport, and a struggle began. Mr Jessop told the court that he threw the gun aside as soon as he realised that Towersey was unarmed. Towersey, a Territorial Army corporal, picked up the weapon and fired a shot into the floor.

The semi-automatic pistol was part of a collection legally held by Mr Jessop, 40, a partner of Pannone & Partners in Manchester.

The jury cleared him of possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life and also intent to cause a person to believe that unlawful violence would be used against them. Judge William Lowe, QC, said: "The law provides that if someone is acting in self-defence then they are not acting unlawfully."

Towersey has been jailed for 18 months for his attacks on the couple.

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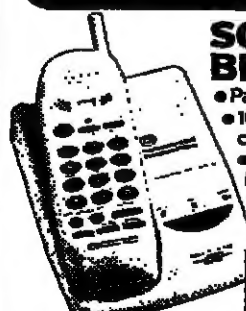
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The Prince of Wales at Guru Nanak Community Football Club in Kent yesterday, where he scored a penalty

Prince puts footballer on the spot

THE Prince of Wales scored yesterday where David Batty failed, putting the ball in the back of the net from a penalty kick (Alan Hamilton writes).

The man in goal was Sasa Ilic, of Charlton Athletic, who had secured his team's promotion to the FA Carling Premiership for this season by saving a penalty against Sunderland. "There is no way I am going to get it past him," muttered the Prince. But whether from nerves or tact, Ilic let in the shot. However, when the Prince was asked to repeat the performance for the benefit of photographers, Ilic was back on form.

The Prince was visiting the Guru Nanak Community Football Club in Gravesend, Kent, where Charlton's professionals were coaching the Sikh club's youth team as part of the "Let's kick racism out of football" campaign.



200,000 Britons may have chronic fatigue syndrome

BY IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

CHRONIC fatigue syndrome is a real medical condition with debilitating and distressing effects. Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, said yesterday.

Giving government recognition to the poorly understood illness, Sir Kenneth accepted new research showing that there were up to 200,000 sufferers of all ages in Britain. It is now agreed that the syndrome is a serious

disease that the National Health Service must learn to handle. Also called myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), the condition was virtually unknown until the mid 1980s, when it was disparagingly nicknamed yuppie flu and many doctors regarded it as a psychological condition.

Sir Kenneth said that the mixture of physical and psychological symptoms made the disease difficult to diagnose and treat. "How it is defined is fraught with difficulties because diagnosis

hinges on things that are not there," he said, "which is not a good way of making a diagnosis."

For this reason, he added, a working group of clinicians, carers and patients was to be set up to give advice on treating and managing the disease.

A spokesman for the Medical Research Council also said that the condition was an important public health problem. "There are many questions amenable to conventional research and we

are willing to look at high-quality competitive proposals to do work in this field," he said. Scientific research into the condition has been carried out for the past eight years with £4 million from the Linbury Trust, a charitable foundation set up by the Sainsbury family.

Alan McGregor from King's College London, chairman of the scientific panel that studied the evidence, said it was not a yuppie condition. "Social class is irrelevant," he said. "It is a substantial bur-

den of ill health that affects the entire community. We have to educate doctors that it is a real problem and none of us can be allowed to sweep it under the carpet any more, put people on the back and say, 'Nothing is wrong with you. You must go back to work.'"

He had become interested in studying the condition, he said, because he came across the case of an 18-year-old girl suffering from the disease. Her parents had mortgaged their home and got into financial problems to pay for her to be treated by charlatans. "In hospitals we come across these scenarios of people who have exhausted their financial resources looking in vain for treatment," he said.

Naomi Wayne, chief executive of Action for ME, said patients often knew more about the disease than doctors. "They are often forced or bullied into some kind of treatment that actually makes them worse," she said.

The ME Association said in a statement that a "significant minority" of GPs refused to accept that ME existed, and treated patients in an unsympathetic and sometimes hostile manner.

Symptoms do not have a single cause

When Esther Rantzen devoted her programme to a discussion of chronic fatigue syndrome, from which her daughter suffers, she seemed to have chosen the doctors to oppose her point of view with considerable care. At first sight, we were all to some extent caricatures of those who practise medicine. I suspect that I was selected as a parody of the archetypal white, middle-class, older doctor. She rightly assumed that I would view the opinions derived from research sponsored by the ME Association with some suspicion. Miss Rantzen presumably realised that I belong to a generation of

doctors who remember the same symptoms now described as CFS being labelled in my youth by older doctors as neurasthenia, and by those who were just my seniors as effort syndrome.

However, there is nothing in Sir Kenneth Calman's comments that would be disputed by those who hold the medical viewpoint, still accepted by about 80 per cent of doctors, that CFS is a group of symptoms, and not a separate disease related to some specific cause. We do not believe sufferers of CFS are malingering, and do believe that they are genuinely ill. No doctor could criticise Sir Kenneth's decision to set up

a working party to study the problem.

Much of the controversy about CFS has stemmed from a refusal from many of those who suffer from it, or who care for those who have it, to accept that physical symptoms could be part of a psychological disease, and that psychological troubles can stem from physical ill health. The body and mind are interlinked, and it is therefore difficult, if not impossible, to sort out which is responsible for what. The important lesson is that doctors must always adopt a holistic approach.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Parents halt daughter's inquest

The parents of a bulimia sufferer who died after a series of unexplained fits stopped an inquest in a effort to prove that she did not die from the eating disorder.

An initial post-mortem examination on Louise Benson, 20, of Wrotham, Kent, a student at Reading University, found death was caused by cardiac arrhythmia due to bulimia. Peter Bedford, East Berkshire deputy coroner, adjourned the case while Ms Benson's parents investigated whether an hereditary condition was the cause.

Banker returns

A Clydesdale Bank manager who disappeared days before £50,000 was reported missing from his branch has returned home. Charles Young turned up at a police station in Cumbria 16 days after he left his Edinburgh home telling his family he was going to the pub to watch the World Cup.

Rape case stops

A rape case against a police inspector has been dropped by the prosecution on the ground that there was no evidence against him. Geoffrey Smith, 31, an inspector at Paddington Green Police Station in West London, was accused of raping a 28-year-old WPC.

Drinking up

The price of a pint of beer went up by nearly 5 per cent last year, with the average pint of lager costing £1.87, a survey by the Campaign for Real Ale showed. Real ale costs an average of £1.71, and is cheapest in the North West at £1.47. The price of cider fell by 2.9 per cent on average.

CORRECTION

A report (July 15) attributed to Professor Sir Roy Calne remarks in fact made by the American surgeon Dr Barry Kaban. Sir Roy is not, as stated in the report, a Nobel prizewinner. We apologise for the errors.

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McLauchlan, of Dundee, did not attend the brief hearing at the city's sheriff court. The case was adjourned until August 13 after William Boyle, her lawyer, said that he had not discussed the fresh charge with his client.

McLauchlan was jailed with Deborah Parry after the murder of an Australian colleague in 1996. They were released in May.

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Cook hints at trouble for coup diplomat

Questions remain about Peter Penfold's conduct despite praise for his heroism in Africa, reports Nicholas Watt

ROBIN COOK hinted yesterday that Britain's High Commissioner to Sierra Leone faced a rough ride from the independent inquiry into the arms-to-Africa affair.



Penfold showed immense courage

Appearing before an all-party committee of MPs, the Foreign Secretary praised Peter Penfold for his courage during last year's coup in Sierra Leone, but pointedly failed to applaud his subsequent conduct.

Mr Penfold was named in April by the British mercenaries Sandline International as the man who advised President Kabbah, Sierra Leone's ousted leader, to ask the company for help in restoring him to power. Sir Thomas Legg, the former Permanent Secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department, is investigating whether British officials helped to supply arms to forces loyal to President Kabbah in breach of a United Nations arms embargo.

Mr Cook confirmed yesterday that Mr Penfold was so close to President Kabbah that the Foreign Office allowed him to take the unusual step of following him into exile in Conakry after he was deposed in May last year. He said that

he had personally telephoned Mr Penfold to congratulate him on his "great heroism and dedication" when he manned the High Commission during the coup.

But Mr Cook gave a strong hint that Mr Penfold's conduct after the coup may not have been quite so praiseworthy. He told the Foreign Affairs Select Committee: "Whatever the events of the last few months, nothing can take away from Mr Penfold the fact that he showed immense courage, operating at times in a building which was on fire."

Mr Cook's comments will

renew speculation that Mr Penfold is facing tough questions over his conduct in the run-up to the counter-coup that restored President Kabbah to power in March. In a letter to Mr Cook in April, Sandline's solicitors alleged that Mr Penfold started the counter-coup operation by advising President Kabbah to ask Sandline for assistance. The letter said: "At a meeting shortly thereafter, Mr Penfold confirmed that he had ordered that approach and encouraged Sandline International's involvement."

Mr Cook added that he did not believe that any officials had broken the arms embargo, which banned the supply of arms to both sides in Sierra Leone after the coup. "There was nobody anywhere in the public service — as far as I'm aware — adopting a policy deliberately aimed at undermining or contradicting the official policy of Her Majesty's Government."

The Foreign Secretary finally appeared before the committee yesterday after reaching a compromise with its members over access to telegrams that passed between Mr Penfold and the Foreign



Robin Cook at yesterday's hearing. Afterwards he declared: "I'm a free man"

Office. MPs were shown a summary of 190 telegrams in a 30-minute private session with Mr Cook yesterday. One MP from each of the three major parties will be allowed to see the telegrams in full to check that the summaries are accurate.

Mr Cook answered questions on Sierra Leone in public for less than half an hour yesterday after Ernie Ross (Lab, Dundee West) spent the first 20 minutes asking ques-

tions about the BBC World Service and Foreign Office spending plans. When MPs moved onto Sierra Leone Mr Ross further delayed proceedings by objecting to a question from Sir John Stanley (C, Tonbridge and Malling).

Mr Cook seemed happy to answer the question, about whether officials had defied the Government's policy on Sierra Leone, but under select committee rules the MPs had to vote on Mr Ross's objection

in private. Mr Cook and his officials trooped out while MPs privately voted Mr Ross down. Ten minutes after the adjournment Mr Cook was summoned back to answer Sir John's question but within 15 minutes the committee went into a private session to read the summary of the telegrams.

Mr Cook emerged from the committee in buoyant mood. "I'm a free man," he said. "I've been acquitted and I'm free to go to Cabinet."

Blair urged to start pro-euro campaign now

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

SIR LEON BRITTON, Britain's senior EU Commissioner, will today urge Tony Blair to start campaigning for British membership of the European single currency and hold a referendum before the next general election.

"The time has now come for the Government to switch from a phase of preparation to a phase of persuasion," Sir Leon, a former Tory cabinet minister, will tell a London audience.

He will say that it is vital to start convincing the public of the merits of the euro now because it is increasingly clear that the currency, to be launched in January, will be successful, offering great benefits to the 11 participating states. "The balance of influence in the European Union is beginning to shift to our disadvantage. Even if the policy of 'wait and see' stays in place for the moment, the case for moving faster than previously envisaged becomes much stronger."

In a speech to the European Union of Women, Sir Leon will say that it makes little sense for the Government to enter the next election without taking a firm line in support of the currency. "It would strain credibility for the Government to insist that it had taken no decision unless it intended to wait substantially longer than a few months after the election before reach-

ing a decision. If the euro is successful, any such further delay would be contrary... to the national interest."

The European Commission has slowed down plans for a law under the Social Chapter that would force all but the smallest firms to create works councils and consult employees on all important decisions.

Padraig Flynn, the Social Affairs Commissioner, is now expected to wait until the autumn to launch the long-promised directive. Under present EU law, only big multinational firms are required to operate works councils. Britain is among a handful of states opposed to mandatory works councils, but they could be outvoted under the majority voting rules of the Social Chapter.



Britton: says it is time to persuade the public

Migrant policy 'beggars belief'

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Health Secretary expressed his astonishment last night that successive governments had allowed British children to be "press-ganged" and shipped overseas to re-populate the distant parts of the Commonwealth without their parents' consent.

Frank Dobson was giving evidence to a Commons Health Committee inquiry into the practice, under which more than 100,000 youngsters aged between three and 17 were exported from children's homes to a supposedly better life between 1850 and 1967. He said: "I find it extraordinary to try and think that there was a point when I was at Wembley watching England win the World Cup and some children were being kidnapped from England and sent to Australia. It beggars belief."

MPs on the committee, who have just returned from a nine-day fact-finding tour of

Australia and New Zealand, told Mr Dobson that they were traumatised by evidence given to them by scores of former child migrants. Audrey Wise, Labour MP for Preston, said that they had met former child migrants who had been habitually raped or "forced to have sexual contact with animals" when they had arrived at farm schools or children's homes, many of which were run by Christian charities, in Australia or New Zealand.

Mr Dobson said he had no evidence of an official cover-up but he agreed that the Government had a responsibility to help former child migrants to trace their records to find out their true identity and to trace surviving family members in Britain. He added, however, that he would have to wait for the inquiry's report before deciding whether financial help should be provided.

Welfare is 'Labour's Vietnam'

BY PHILIP WEBSTER

THE Government's failure to tackle welfare reform would turn out to be "Labour's Vietnam", William Hague said yesterday.

Criticising this week's spending review as "the biggest gamble of them all", the Tory leader accused the Prime Minister of losing his nerve.

The Tories believe that the increased spending on social security has left the Government vulnerable to charges that it is returning to its old Labour roots. They claim that welfare spending will soar over the next three years.

Speaking in Peplow, Shropshire, Mr Hague said the spending review showed that Tony Blair had lost the courage to pursue welfare reform. "The withdrawal has in Labour's case been swift. But there can now be little doubt that the last helicopter has left Saigon."

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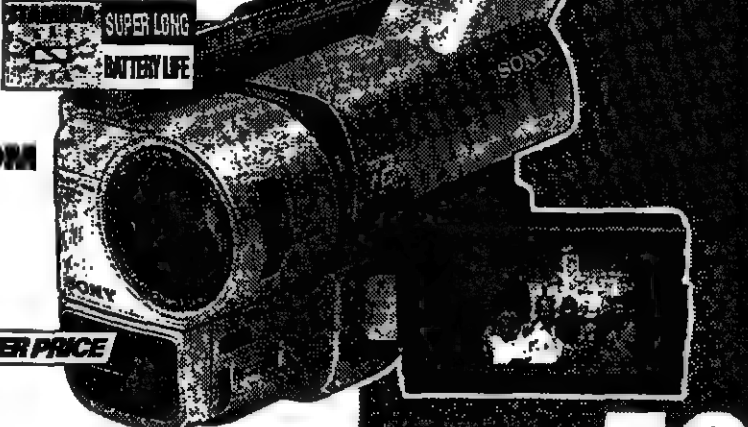
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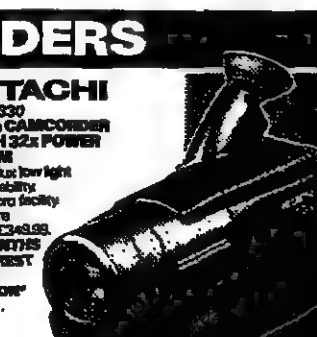
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هكذا من الأصل

European court outlaws designer-label discounts

By CHARLES BREMNER AND STEPHEN FARRELL

A BOOMING market in cut-price designer clothes, sportswear and perfumes was outlawed by the European Court of Justice yesterday. The Luxembourg court ruled that supermarkets and discount stores could not sell designer goods that had been imported into Europe without the brand owner's consent.

Asda said it feared that the decision would be "a smoke-screen for higher prices" and Nigel Griffiths, the Consumer Affairs Minister, called for a Europe-wide investigation into restrictions on cut-price goods. But the European Commission said the ruling was a victory for the consumer because it "guaranteed the constant quality of products circulating within the EU".

Chains including Tesco, Sainsbury and Sainsbury's began to import designer-label goods last year after being rejected as "official" outlets by companies such as Calvin Klein and Levi's, which preferred more exclusive outlets for their goods.

The supermarkets bought the products at low prices from outside Europe and offered them at big discounts. The so-called grey market, worth £100 million a year, was helped by the economic collapse in the Far East which has created a glut of designer goods for resale in Europe.

Tesco said the court decision was "a dark and sad day" for customers. The chain imported Levi's jeans from Mexico after the company refused to make it an authorised dealer.

The strategy is designed to attract more customers rather than to make profits. Tesco buys Levi's 501 jeans for £26

and sells them for £30, leaving almost no profit after costs are taken into account. A licensed retailer buys them for £26 and sells them for £50 or more.

The court case involved Silhouette, the Austrian spectacle company, which had complained that an Austrian discount chain was selling its glasses at a discount having bought them from a Bulgarian distributor.

The judges said that a 1988 directive meant that a trademark owner could prevent its products being imported into the European Economic Area without approval. The EEA comprises the 15 EU states plus Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein.

The Government's criticism of the ruling caused surprise in Brussels because Britain had asked the Court of Justice to rule in favour of the brand owners. The British submission to the court, by Treasury lawyers, was made early last year under the Conservative Government and was not changed when Labour took over, officials said.

Levi Strauss said that the decision appeared to be "helpful in enhancing our trademark rights more consistently throughout Europe".

Adidas said that it invested huge sums in developing high-performance textiles and footwear and felt that its products should be sold in an "appropriate environment".

"We believe that there are significant advantages for consumers going into retail outlets where they will receive the technical advice and support they expect," a spokesman said.



Heavily discounted designer clothing on sale at a Tesco supermarket yesterday

EU judges bring cheer for Scotch distillers

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE Scotch Whisky Association has won a six-year legal battle to stop imposters using the spirit's name.

The European Court of Justice yesterday upheld the 1989 legal definition of whisky by ruling that drinks with an alcoholic strength of less than 40 per cent cannot be labelled as whisky. The judgment ended the association's action against Cofepp, the makers of Gold River, a French blend of Scotch, Canadian and American whiskies diluted with water, which is 30 per cent proof. It was claimed that the company was breaking the law by passing the drink off as a "blended whisky spirit".

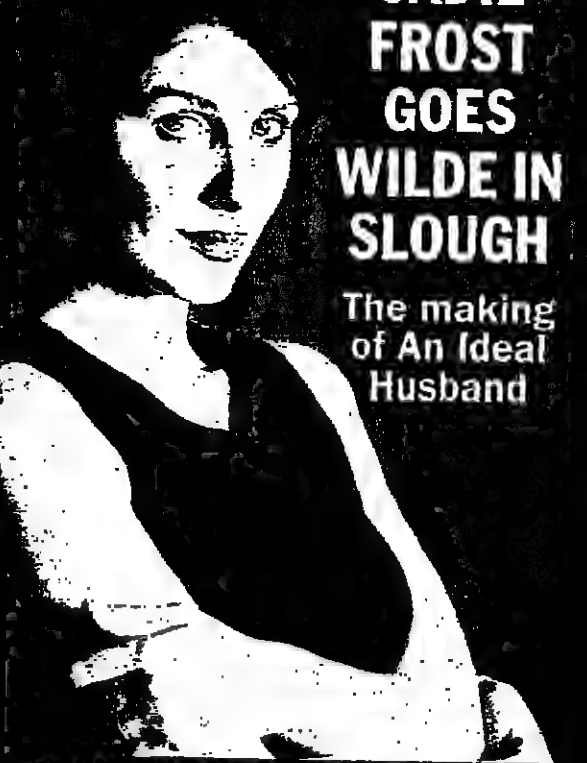
The judges said that Gold River qualified as a spirit drink, but not a whisky.

Campbell Evans, of the association, said that the action had been taken to protect the "integrity" of Scotch whisky. "If people buy a product that they think is whisky, and it isn't, then they may be put off the genuine product," he said.

THE TIMES ON SATURDAY

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Style, page 20

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Corruption alert as World Bank calls in auditors

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE World Bank, which campaigns against corruption in borrower states, has hired independent auditors to investigate evidence of embezzlement in its own ranks.

James Wolfensohn, the bank's Australian-born president, said he had created an internal fraud team and hired Price Waterhouse, the international accountants, to examine costs from the annual \$25 billion (£15.5 billion) development fund.

An internal review had uncovered "alarming information" about possible kickbacks and embezzlement, according to bank officials who said that projects coming under scrutiny included bank-funded efforts in Russia, Japan and Indonesia.

"This is not an easy process for an organisation to undergo," Mr Wolfensohn told staff. "Over the bank's 54-year history, we have established an

unparalleled reputation for our integrity, our independence and our behaviour. I am encouraging all staff to bring information of possible wrongdoing to the appropriate parties and to co-operate with any internal investigations."

One part of the investigation, he said, had led to a civil lawsuit against a former bank official, Fritz Rodriguez. The suit is seeking to recover tens of thousands of dollars in alleged kickbacks the bank believes Mr Rodriguez took from a contractor for an Algerian water project.

The bank alleges that the contractor was Mr Rodriguez's former Maryland neighbour, David Pearson. Mr Rodriguez, who retired last year, has denied the allegations.

The World Bank is one of Washington's largest employers, with about 8,600 employ-

ees. It pours billions into developing countries for ventures ranging from infrastructure improvements to baby feeding programmes. The money comes from selling low-interest bonds backed by its 180 member nations.

The bank has long been a target for questions over inefficiency and the opportunities for corruption. Since his appointment in 1995, Mr Wolfensohn has encouraged employees to voice their concerns.

Officials were tipped off about corruption suspicions by bank employees, consultants and government officials in the countries concerned.

The United States remains the most powerful member and significant force at the bank. The US Treasury has been kept informed of the investigation.

Russian outlook, page 28



The Pope walking with two sticks yesterday in the north Italian Dolomites, near the resort of Lorenzago di Cadore, where he is on holiday until next week

WORLD IN BRIEF

Protesting Gurkhas besiege embassy

The British Embassy in Kathmandu came under siege yesterday when about 15,000 retired Gurkhas and their families protested over the size of the pensions they receive for serving in the British Army (Michael Evans writes). A protest letter, demanding pensions and benefits on a par with other British soldiers and the right of residence in Britain or a British territory, was handed to Lloyd Smith, the Ambassador in the Nepalese capital.

The demonstration went ahead despite the announcement by the Ministry of Defence in London last month that Gurkha pensions were to be increased by up to 51 per cent. The rising level of protests by one Gurkha organisation has angered senior British army commanders in London. They insist that the pension scales for Gurkhas are sufficiently generous when compared with the standard of living in Nepal, where the average per capita income is only £120 a year. However, Gurkhas said they would begin an embassy sit-in on August 17.

Agent's evidence blocked

Washington: The US Court of Appeals temporarily blocked the head of President Clinton's security guard, Larry Cockell, from testifying before the grand jury in the Monica Lewinsky investigation. The court said its ruling would stay in effect until it decides whether to accept the Administration's appeal against two court decisions ordering Secret Service agents to testify in the investigation by Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel. (AP)

Police stop Kosovo 'MPs'

Pristina: Kosovo Albanians inaugurated their parliament, which neither Belgrade authorities nor the outside world recognise, and Serbian police immediately intervened and ordered the legislators to disperse. Witnesses said that police arrived after a brief session during which political representatives elected by the ethnic Albanian majority last March were sworn in. The legislators left peacefully. (Reuters)

Elm for Dutch sex slaves

Tokyo: Japan's Asian Women's Fund, a group supporting women forced to serve as sex slaves to the Imperial Army in the Second World War, has signed a compensation agreement with a Dutch organization in The Hague. The agreement would give £1 million to Dutch women who were forced by Japanese troops to provide them with sex at front-line brothels, the fund said. It estimates that there are 100 Dutch "comfort women" still alive. (AFP)

Star bows to Greek protests

New York: Antonio Banderas, right, has withdrawn from a film about Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey, after intense protests by Greek-Americans. The New York Times reported. Protesters feared a favourable film portrayal might lead to a warming of public feeling toward Turkey. Producer Tarquin Olivier is now without a star for the £15 million film. (AP)



Umpire denies sex abuse

Hobart: Steve Randall, Australia's most experienced international cricket umpire, was charged with 26 counts of sexual abuse when he appeared in a Tasmanian court. Mr Randall, 42, was charged with 25 counts of indecent assault and one of having sexual intercourse with a person under the age of 17. He denied all the charges and was released on bail. The charges were reported to concern alleged incidents between 1979 and 1995. (Reuters)

Gettysburg redress

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania: Christian Eyo, 52, of Muret, France, an American Civil War enthusiast who admitted accidentally shooting and wounding a man in the neck during a re-enactment of the Battle of Gettysburg, was sentenced to two days' jail, ordered to pay more than \$28,550 (£17,000) to cover his victim's medical bills, and fined \$2,000. Eyo, who had already spent two days in prison, paid part of his fine and headed home. (AP)



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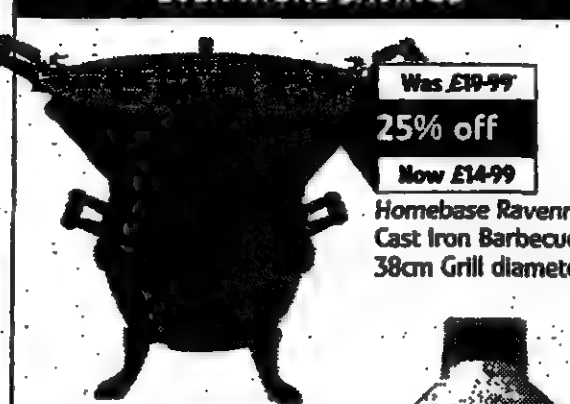
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HM Treasury, Euro Preparations Unit

Yeltsin will attend Romanov funeral

Change of heart to atone for sins of Russia's dark past

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN MOSCOW
PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRIS HARRIS

IN A dramatic change of mind, President Yeltsin yesterday announced that he will represent his country in a solemn ceremony of mourning and commemoration when the bones of its last emperor, Tsar Nicholas II, and his family are laid to rest today in the ancestral church of the Peter and Paul Fortress in St Petersburg.

Mr. Yeltsin's last-minute change of heart has added vast political significance to the funeral that will now be broadcast live across Russia. He will lead the mourning for the last Tsar of the Romanov dynasty as well as the millions slaughtered in the wake of the Russian Revolution.

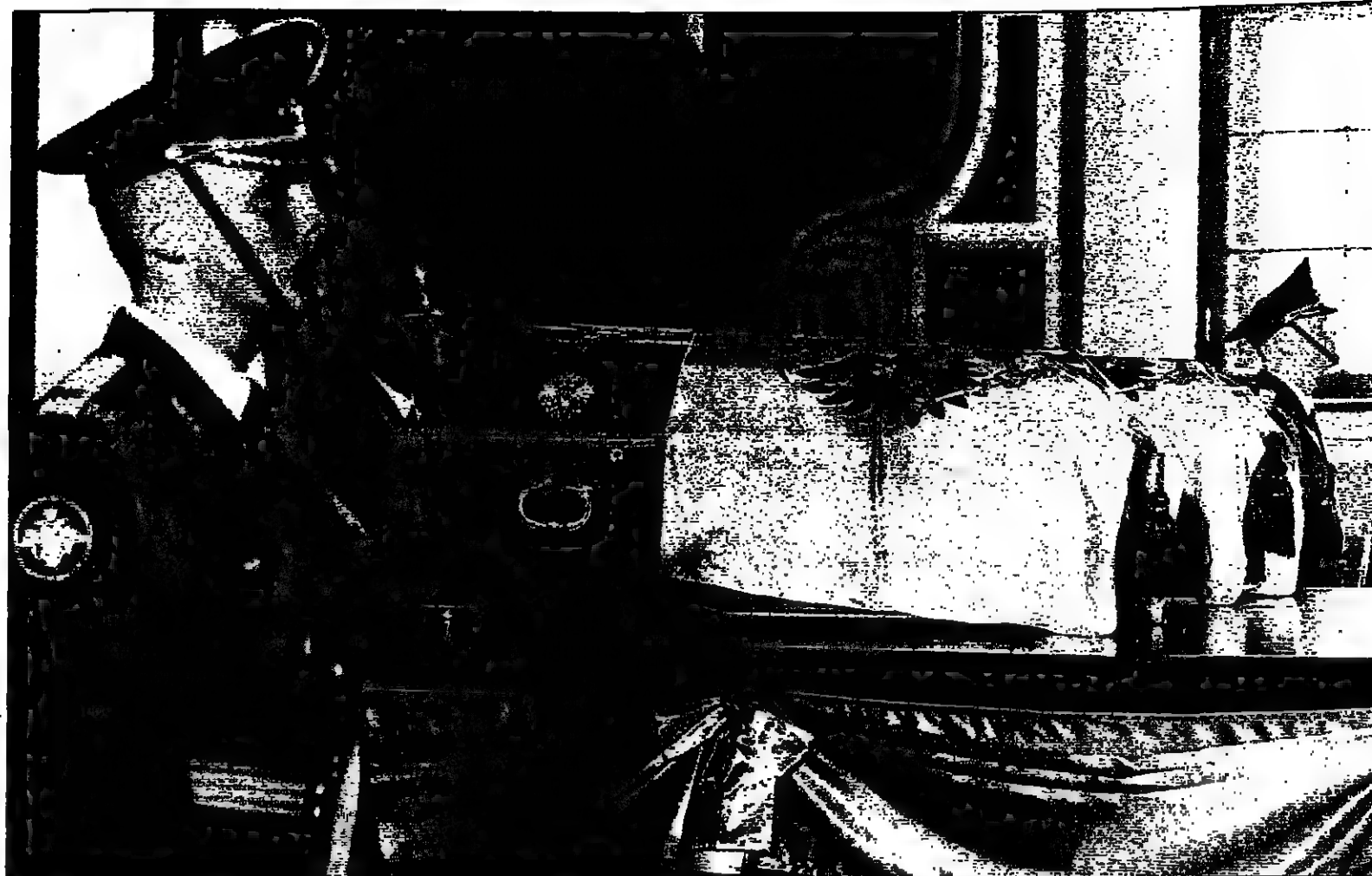
"After reflecting for a long time and talking to many citizens... I have come to the conclusion that I should go tomorrow to St Petersburg," Mr. Yeltsin said in a televised statement. "The truth has been concealed for 80 years, and we have to tell this truth tomorrow."

The Kremlin said in laying to rest the remains of innocent people who were murdered "the present generation of Russians is striving to atone

for the sins of their predecessors". Nine tiny coffins, carrying the remains of Nicholas, his wife, three of his daughters, the family doctor and three servants, were flown out from Yekaterinburg, the town in the Urals where the family was exiled and then murdered. About 1,000 people attended the three-hour departure service, attended also by Vladimir Solov'yov, the official investigator of the murders who, like others, was weeping.

The coffins arrived at St Petersburg where they were escorted with full ceremony along a route lined with flags at half-mast to the cathedral in the Peter and Paul Fortress, the traditional resting-place of the Romanov Tsars.

The deep bells of the slender steeple rang out slowly as four uniformed officers, marching with funeral step, bore each coffin resting on a tablet slowly across the cobbled courtyard and into the freshly painted church. One by one they laid down the coffins, lined with silver or royal gold and velvet and decorated with an etched name-plate and the sloping Orthodox cross. Church officials placed them



The tiny coffins with the remains of Tsar Nicholas II and his wife Alexandra in the Peter and Paul Fortress in St Petersburg for today's burial

on a single pedestal, painted to look like marble, in a pyramid beneath the chandeliers. Nearby were the marble vaults of earlier Tsars and a bust of Peter the Great, the founder of Russia's new capital.

As muffled drums sounded, the remains of the servants and grand duchesses were laid on the lower stands; Alexandra, the Tsar's beloved wife and grand-daughter of Queen Victoria, was carried in

next, her coffin, like that of her husband, draped with the yellow-and-black flag of the Romanovs. The two rested side by side on the top of the pyramid, united with their family and servants as they

had been in the cellar on that murderous summer night 80 years ago.

As the choir began chanting the Orthodox liturgy, a small group of dignitaries and mourners came in. They in-

cluded some of the 50 descendants of the Romanovs whom the Government has invited, some for the first time to Russia, from abroad.

Leading article, page 23

Church dispute over DNA saddens Prince

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

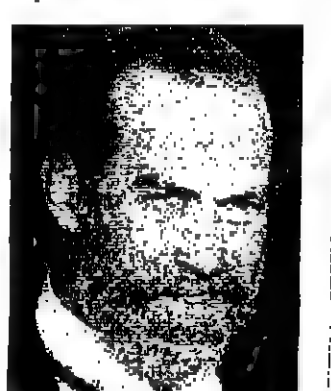
PRINCE MICHAEL of Kent yesterday spoke of his sadness over the controversy surrounding the burial of Russia's last Tsar. "This was a great opportunity to heal divisions in Russian society," he said before flying to St Petersburg to attend today's ceremony.

"It is ironic that the Orthodox Church, for so long the bedrock of the people's faith, should now find it difficult to give this important ceremony the blessing the country had expected," the Prince said. "I have studied the results of DNA testing carried out in England and abroad. I am quite convinced that the remains are of the Tsar and his family."

The Tsar and the Romanovs are related to the British Royal Family, and the Duke of Edinburgh supplied a DNA sample to help to verify the authenticity of the remains. Prince Michael's maternal grandmother, Princess Nicholas of Greece — born Grand Duchess Helen Vladimirovna — was a first cousin of Nicholas II.

Prince Michael is attending the burial with the Queen's blessing. "I am not representing the Queen because neither Her Majesty nor any other visitor to the ceremony received an invitation."

In St Petersburg, during her state visit to Russia in 1994, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh toured the cathedral where the Romanov Tsars are buried in the former imperial capital.



Prince Michael: trip blessed by the Queen

Why finger of the Tsarina almost spoilt President's plans

BY MICHAEL BINYON



The bones of the Romanov family lying in state in the splendour of the fortress cathedral yesterday

WHEN President Yeltsin proposed a ceremony to inter the remains of the last Tsar of Russia, he had in mind a dignified and historic occasion to cement the reconciliation of Church and State, mark a symbolic break with the Communist past and clear up the myths and misinformation surrounding the demise of the Romanovs.

He did not anticipate intrigues, schisms and political opposition, or the anger of nationalist and religious zealots who rejected DNA evidence that the remains were authentic.

Until yesterday the funeral was in danger of becoming a tawdry affair, boycotted by political and spiritual

leaders. Then, with his talent for dramatic surprise, Mr Yeltsin announced that he would, after all, attend. He insisted that he would lead national remembrance for the millions slaughtered — overwhelmingly by the Communists — after 1917.

His decision sets him at odds with the Russian Orthodox Church, whose scepticism about the bones' authenticity has caused puzzlement. Patriarch Aleksii II, insisting that the DNA tests are fallible, is to hold a rival ceremony of remembrance today at a monastery outside Moscow. The Archbishop of St Petersburg, on the pretext of attending a church conference in Canterbury, will also be absent. Church sources say that the Patriarch

has vacillated because he does not want to involve the Church in political controversy. They note his close ties with Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor of Moscow, who campaigned to have the bones interred in the city's grandiose new cathedral, erected at huge expense but needing a holy attraction.

But by far the most important reason, church sources say, is the wish to lay hands on the vast wealth of the Russian Church overseas. The Patriarch is in the midst of negotiations to reunify the resurgent Moscow church with the breakaway church established in exile after the revolution. The White Russian church is immensely rich. It declared the Tsar a saint soon after the revolution, and in 1924

received a finger, thought to belong to the Tsarina. It was declared a holy relic and buried in a church built by Russian exiles in memory of Nicholas in Brussels in 1936.

Accepting the authenticity of the Yekaterinburg bones would embarrass the exiled church, undermining the claim of the relic which it has refused to submit to scientific analysis.

Mr Yeltsin has admitted that his decision in 1977, as party secretary in Sverdlovsk (now Yekaterinburg again), to obey orders from Moscow and destroy Ipatiev House — where the Romanovs were held — lies heavily on his conscience. For him, today's ceremony is a step of personal and national reconciliation.

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Divers aim to unlock Bounty's secrets

Shipwreck may uncover details of mutineers' life

on Pitcairn Island, writes Roger Maynard

THE wreck of HMS *Bounty*, which carried Fletcher Christian and his mutineers to remote Pitcairn Island in the South Pacific, may soon shed fresh light on one of history's most enduring seafaring sagas.

After more than two centuries at the bottom of the surf which laps the shore of the Pacific's last remaining British Overseas Territory, the vessel could be about to give up its secrets, thanks to an Australian expedition.

The team, from James Cook University in Townsville, hopes to find evidence of the European sailors' lifestyle and what happened after the mutiny.

While it is known that the *Bounty* was deliberately set on fire, the purpose of doing so has never been definitively established and may well have been against Christian's orders.

If the researchers find personal possessions on the wreck, it will suggest that the fire was quick and unexpected by the rest of the crew.

"I think we will get a much better idea of what really



Captain Bligh is seized by the mutineers; and, right, he and loyal crew members are cast adrift from the *Bounty* by Fletcher Christian and his followers. The ship then made its way to Pitcairn Island



happened after the mutiny," Peter Veth, project co-ordinator, said yesterday.

"Even if we find only a few personal items or dietary material, we might learn how many people were killed and at what stage," he said.

The archaeologists also hope to establish how society restructured itself on Pit-

cairn after the mutineers landed in 1790.

While much has been written about the crew's time there, most of the stories stem from information provided by John Adams, who was found by a whaling vessel in 1808.

He kept no written records and gave differing accounts

of his time there to visiting sailors. Christian and the seven men who led the mutiny against Captain William Bligh had sailed the *Bounty* from Tahiti to escape British Admiralty justice. Apart from Adams, they all died within a few years, mostly at the hands of Polynesians who murdered five of them.

The project is the idea of Nigel Erskine, a postgraduate student at James Cook University, who wants to know how such a motley crew of subversives mixed with the Polynesians and created such an extraordinary society.

He also hopes to learn about the role of the Polyn-

sian women who sustained the mutineers. "Because of the chauvinistic way history has been written, their stories have been totally overlooked," he said.

Despite the passage of time, the researchers believe there is every likelihood of finding the ship's fittings and other artefacts in good

condition on the wreck, when the expedition begins in September.

Protected by large rocks and sealed into airtight compartments by sediment, the remains could be remarkably well preserved.

"In fact, there could be a lot more preserved than people think," Mr Veth said.

Permission to search the wreck was given by the islanders after lengthy negotiations with the university.

Pitcairn, which has a population of just 38, is a lush paradise with a tiny post office and not much else. Commercial vessels with supplies visit only three or four times a year.

Britain scuppers plan for 'opt-out' deal on war crimes court

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

A LAST-DITCH attempt yesterday to salvage the founding United Nations conference on the establishment of a world war crimes court collapsed when Britain broke ranks with the United States and joined a majority of "like-minded" nations in rejecting a proposal which would have allowed dissenting nations to opt out of the court's jurisdiction.

Under the compromise — put forward by Japan — the US and other states opposed to an International Criminal Court (ICC) with extensive powers and independent from the UN Security Council could have opted out for a period of ten years, which would then be renewable. As the conference hovered on the brink, Britain was reported to have at first

joined the US, France, China and Russia in backing the opt-out. But delegates later said the so-called "like-minded" group of 60 countries which favours a powerful autonomous ICC, a group headed by Canada and including many Third World countries, had totally rejected the plan, and that Britain had joined them.

There were also suggestions that the draft text, to be voted on today — the last day of the five-week meeting — could be altered so that, whereas genocide would trigger automatic ICC jurisdiction, war crimes and crimes against humanity would not. Furious human rights activists said this would render the court meaningless.

Mary Robinson, the UN Commissioner for Human Rights and former Irish Presi-

dent, wrote to all delegates expressing her deep concern. "We cannot have a court based on opt-ins and opt-outs," she said.

Further last-minute obstacles arose over whether the use of nuclear weapons should be classed as a war crime, a proposal advanced by India but resisted by the Big Five. The US, which has all along resisted the idea of a powerful world court able to prosecute war crimes independently of the UN Security Council, said there appeared to be little scope left for a compromise. Diplomats indicated that the US might abstain or consider signing at a later date.

Italy, which is hosting the conference, said the delegates were in negotiating phase. But David Scheffer, head of the US delegation, said the US had so far found no common ground with the "like-minded" nations, who want the ICC prosecutor to have extensive powers and full autonomy from the Security Council.

Mr Scheffer said that the American reservations were shared by other major countries, including China, India, Russia and France. Britain had given cautious approval to the ICC, although it shared some of the doubts felt by the United States.

The concept of a world war crimes court has been nurtured at the UN since the end of the Second World War. But until now prosecutions have been confined to ad hoc war crimes tribunals in The Hague. The International Court of Justice in The Hague does not itself deal with war crimes, but only with disputes between states, and its jurisdiction is limited to those states which have duly recognised its competence.

Under proposals tabled last month when the Rome conference opened, the president of the Court would be elected for a three-year period, and would be chosen from a total of 19 judges, drawn from different nations, who would serve a nine-year term. The prosecutor would also serve for nine years, and would be in charge of investigations.

Leading article, page 23



Robinson: concerned at opt-out proposals



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Israeli who sold gas to Iran is jailed for 16 years

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

Chen Xitong: justified attack on Tiananmen Square students

□ **Protest over detainees:** A group of 100 dissidents yesterday urged Chinese leaders to free five activists detained for trying to register an opposition political party, the Hong Kong-based Information Centre of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China said in a statement. (Reuters)



Israel radio said that Mr Bazak looked in sombre mood yesterday as Mr Netanyahu

Manbar listens to the sentence yesterday

Geneva: Israel's sweeping use of emergency powers, the legitimization of torture by security forces and discrimination between Jews and Arabs allowed under the law, were severely criticized yesterday in the country's first human rights audit by the United Nations (Peter Capella writes).

In preliminary comments at the end of a cross-examina-

Christine Shanet, head of the team of 18 legal experts, condemned the use of torture by security forces, allowed by Israeli courts to prevent terrorist attacks.

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Mbeki struggles to match Mandela's act

Birthday jamboree ushers in new era

FROM R.W. JOHNSON IN JOHANNESBURG

NELSON MANDELA'S 80th birthday is being celebrated on a huge scale in South Africa this weekend with tributes throughout the day on television and radio shows, special newspaper supplements, an official party and all manner of special competitions and events.

Most South Africans see Mr Mandela as an extraordinary, heroic and charismatic figure. In a country not blessed with far-sighted leadership, there is a deep consciousness that it has at last produced a figure greater even than Jan Smuts, and perhaps even the equal of Cecil Rhodes in the part he has played in shaping this country-in-the-making.

At the same time the celebrations are a way of saying goodbye. No one doubts that Mr Mandela will enjoy an unequalled moral authority in South Africa while he lives, but he has been replaced as president of the African National Congress by Thabo Mbeki and will surrender the presidency of the country next April. In the eyes of both South Africa and the world this will leave a tremendous gap and there is anxiety about what the age of Mr Mbeki may bring. Mr Mandela's retirement will leave Mr Mbeki in an easier situation than the one he now enjoys. There is even a chance that the Government will become more coherent and focused.

First, and most obviously, Mr Mbeki has been running the country for some years already. Almost from the start he took the chair at Cabinet meetings and has been extremely visible for some time, now that all political roads lead to and from the Deputy President's office.

Secondly, Mr Mandela's great contribution lay in leading the anti-apartheid struggle and in exemplifying the spirit of reconciliation when it was won. These were, and are, giant contributions, but there is no point in pretending that Mr Mandela was particularly well suited to the tasks of government and administration when he took over as President in 1994.

Mr Mbeki has had most of the real power and in effect the responsibility for government, yet he has not enjoyed the presidential title or authority. Moreover, Mr Mandela has in important respects resembled the ageing Charles de Gaulle: while normally preoccupied with lofty matters of protocol and principle, he will

from time to time sally forth unpredictably into the political arena when his attention is really engaged. This was what happened when, during the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in New Zealand, the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa saw an outraged Mr Mandela remake foreign policy on the spot — leaving Mr Mbeki to pick up the pieces of the crucial relationship with Nigeria.

Similarly, the violence in Richmond in KwaZulu-Natal has seen Mr Mandela rush in to declare — without much real evidence — that the police are culpable for 20 deaths and that the ANC will not participate in the all-party talks that most observers believe are the key to peace. This must have been fairly disconcerting to Mr Mbeki who, in the interests of reconciliation with Inkatha, has already promised to attend its congress in Uthuli this weekend.

Mr Mbeki's problem is that Mr Mandela is an impossible act to follow, particularly since Mr Mbeki is singularly lacking in charisma and has not

even managed to develop a "favourite son" base in his native Eastern Cape, where his opponent, Barno Holomisa, seems to have overtaken him. To a degree that is seldom appreciated, Mr Mbeki will be running the ANC's 1999 election campaign essentially against Mr Mandela, desperately seeking to win a mandate of his own which will give him the authority he now lacks and so badly needs.

The ANC's ambition to obtain a two-thirds majority in 1999 has panicked liberal democrats who spy a single-party state not far down the road. But the fact is that the ANC won 62.7 per cent of the vote in 1994, and if it wins less in 1999 Mr Mbeki will appear to lack legitimacy and authority. Hence the need to win even bigger next time, at last giving Mr Mbeki a claim to authority that he currently lacks.

For the moment, such concerns are lost in the celebrations of a much-loved old man's birthday. Once the party's over, however, the real accounting will begin.

□ **Skukuza:** Mr Mandela, who becomes an octogenarian tomorrow, kicked off his birthday celebrations, hosting a party in the Kruger game reserve for 1,000 orphans. He cut a huge cake, in the shape of his trade-mark colourful casual shirts. (Reuters)



President Mandela cuts a cake before a thousand orphans during his pre-birthday celebration at the Skukuza camp in Kruger National Park yesterday. Girls serenaded the President with the words: "You're so special"

Secrecy muffles talk of wedding bells

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

SPECULATION intensified last night that President Mandela was planning to mark his birthday this weekend by marrying his partner, Graça Machel.

A front-page story in yesterday's *Johannesburg Star* headlined "Madiba's wedding bells" reported that sources had disclosed that the ceremony would take place in private tomorrow at Mr Mandela's home. The report claimed Johannesburg's chief magistrate, Charlton Bashe, had been asked to officiate at the ceremony.

Parks Mankahlana, the President's spokesman, denied knowledge of plans for a wedding. But the newspaper said the Department of Home Affairs had been asked to arrange the formalities around Mrs Machel's status as a citizen of Mozambique.

Mr Mandela and Mrs Machel, 52, the widow of the former Mozambican President, Samora Machel, went

public about their relationship last year. The President has declared his willingness to tie the knot, indicating that resistance to formalising the relationship came from Mrs Machel's side. She admitted her reluctance to marry, but did not preclude the possibility. "It has all the elements of mutual respect for each other. He's so easy to love."



Machel: says Mandela is so easy to love

‘Mbeki, lacking charisma, has not developed a base’

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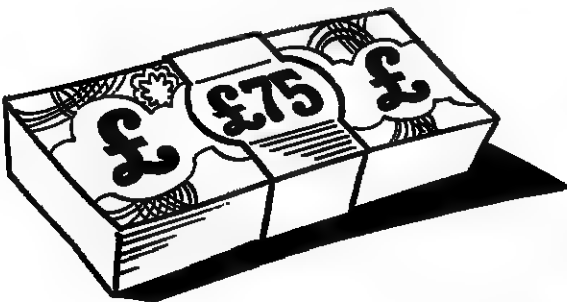
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Do you know who I am?



Dark thoughts: sunglasses send a message — and it's not "lovely weather for the time of year, isn't it?"

HOT TIP

This is not the best of summers for acquiring a tan but, with a little subterfuge, it is still possible. Apply For Mavuna from Lancaster after sunbathing and it can increase your tan by up to 50 per cent. Working with your skin's own tanning ability, it deepens colour and helps to repair sun-damaged cells with natural enzymes called holosomes. £19, at selected department stores nationwide.

Everyone knows that sunglasses and sun-shine have absolutely nothing to do with each other. Did Greta Garbo dispense with hers whenever it came over a bit cloudy? I think not. The thing about shades is that they send a message, and that message is not, "lovely weather for the time of year, isn't it?"

Consider for a moment the people who never go out without their dark glasses. Does anyone have the faintest idea what Karl Lagerfeld looks like without his? Anna Wintour wears hers throughout every catwalk show — Lagerfeld's included. No chance of telling by the flicker of an eyelid what she thinks of his latest collection. Isabelle Adjani wore ink-black shades to watch a zillion movies during her stint as president of the Cannes Film Festival. She even kept them on for the Cannes jury's team photograph. "Conjunctivitis," explained her publicist. A likely story. And then there is Magenta DeVine, who has contrived to build an entire career around a pair of sunglasses. And what these people are saying, with their designer absence of eye contact, is: "Don't you realise who I am?"

The fact is, of course, that you do. Or if you don't, you feel you jolly well ought to. It's a trick that every wannabee starlet and pretty shopgirl has picked up, but the beauty of it is, it keeps on working. Off day? Hideous hangover? A swipe of lip gloss and a pair of shades will soon sort that out. Indeed, I once knew a girl so in thrall to her dark glasses that she wore two pairs at once: one on her nose to look through, and another perched on top of her head, in case of emergencies, presumably.

A morning's people-watching on the streets of London reveals that the pushed-up-on-your-head look is big among the pretty nymphs of the King's Road. In Knightsbridge, crackle-glass Ladies who Lunch wear Versace tortoiseshell frames with a gilt Medusa's head logo, and in Bond Street, saggy-bottomed American tourists wear aviator shades, and designer-clad Japanese girls retreat behind impenetrable D&G goggles. The thing about sunglasses is that their effect on the face is dramatic. Upswept frames can make one girl look as alluring as a Siamese kitten, and another simply spiteful. Jackie O goggles can lend an air of grief-stricken mystery —

CUTTING EDGE

or simply make you look like a kind of enormous ant. This year, it's the Jackie O goggles that have the upper hand, along with tiny angular shades with lenses in strange, unfattering tints (pink, yellow) as worn by Liam Gallagher and his avatar, Nicky Haslam. If you look awful in both shapes, you will just have to grit your teeth and choose between looking dowdy or plain.

If you favour the narrow-eyed look, Benson & Ashley at Fenwick has a version with black plastic frames and turquoise lenses reduced from

£50 to £24.95. Dolce & Gabbana has green lenses with gold frames, or grey with pewter, £195. On the high street, Marks & Spencer does a very good small oval pair in brushed silver metal and opaque plastic with blue lenses, £16 (also in gold with bronze lenses) and a gentler, oval steel-rimmed pair for £16 (despite the huge discrepancy in price, almost all high street sunglasses these days boast some level of UVA protection. It is worth reading the label).

At Oasis, rectangular pink lenses in pink metal frames are £12.99, and ruby rectangle frames with blue lenses are £11.99. Next has Nicky Haslam-style yellow lenses for £9.99, and at Superdrug, narrow black shades with pierced metal arms are £8.99.

The trouble with these minimalist lenses, however, is that they do not exactly lend an air of mystery. Far too much of

your face remains on show. If glamour is what you're after, you'd better stick to goggles. Oasis has a particularly pretty pair of lilac frames with navy lenses, £9.99. Calvin Klein does a lovely retro pair with translucent almond-green frames and sea-green lenses, and Cutler & Gross a striking Op-Art, £87 black and white checked frame with blue lenses, £165. At Fenwick, Fabris Lane's Cruella de Vil, cat-eye black frames are £19.95, and sexy triangular frames in ruby red with black lenses by Guess? are £39.95. Dolce & Gabbana does an unusual pair of gently rounded clear topaz frames with a white streak and bronze lenses, £129. But for Holly Golightly with a really bad attack of the mean reds, the best remedy is probably Dior's leopardskin frames with lenses of soothing jungle green, £129.

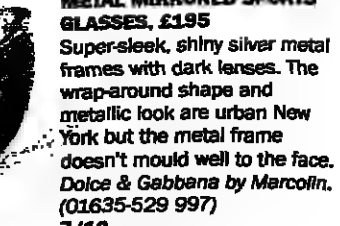
SIX OF THE BEST

Shades provide a high cool factor as well as sun protection.

RECTANGULAR TORTOISESHELL GLASSES, £109
These rectangular frames are the Nineties take on the rounded Jackie O look. Seriously stylish. Cutler & Gross, 16 Knightsbridge Green, SW1. (0171-581 2250) 10/10



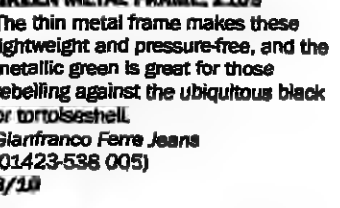
SLIM RECTANGULAR TORTOISESHELL, £89
A sleek shape which still provides good sun protection. These suit most faces and are so lightweight you forget you are wearing them. Gucci (01423-538 005) 10/10



OLIVE GREEN SPORTS GLASSES, £65
These are coated in a soft, rubber-like film which stops friction. The lightweight frame curves around the face and is excellent for sport. Ralph Lauren Polo Sport (01423-538 005) 9/10



GREEN METAL FRAME, £109
The thin metal frame makes these lightweight and pressure-free, and the metallic green is great for those rebelling against the ubiquitous black or tortoiseshell. Gianfranco Ferré Jeans (01423-538 005) 9/10



BLACK GRADUATED LENSES, £225
A heavy rectangular frame with original 50ties silver and black slides, these can be worn with a graduated tint, full tint or optical lenses. The price is hot but only 150 have been made. Kirk Originals, 36 Earham Street, WC2. (0171-240 5055) 9/10



COMPILED BY DEBORAH BRETT

THE SUNDAY TIMES



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Global man can't do without God

Christianity is a match for the market, says Daniel Johnson

Globalisation is an ugly new word for an old idea. Much has been written about the economic reality that it denotes and with which we must live; rather less about the consequences for our culture, which are ultimately more important. We learnt this week that a new McDonald's opens somewhere in the world every 15 minutes. Is this integrating, homogenising, levelling force, which sweeps all before it, a cultural catastrophe or not? And is globalisation the triumph of Western civilisation, or its demise? One can be a pessimist or an optimist; most of us are deeply ambivalent. Both responses are encapsulated in two recent books.

First the pessimist, John Gray, formerly an Oxford don, now Professor of European Thought at the London School of Economics, came to write *False Dawn: The Delusions of Global Capitalism* (Granta) as a result of his disillusionment with Thatcherism. He has transferred his enthusiasm to Asian models of capitalism, particularly the Japanese. (*False Dawn* was evidently written before the Asian crisis.)

Professor Gray traces the technological transformation of the world as both an ineluctable fate and as the road to serfdom. It "has resulted in the emancipation of market forces from social and political control. By allowing that freedom to world markets we ensure that the age of globalisation will be remembered as another turn in the history of servitude."

Back in the Thirties, this argument was fought out between Friedrich von Hayek, who thought the Depression would be cured by the market, and John Maynard Keynes, who thought the survival of Western democracy required state intervention. For half a century, Keynes appeared to have won; then, in the 1980s, the heirs of Hayek regained the initiative. Professor Gray's own pilgrimage began as a Hayek scholar; after his conversion from laissez faire, he now recalls Keynes, but in a minor key.

We are, the professor intones *ex cathedra* (and not without a grim relish), entering "an era of Occidental twilight." From Spengler to Foucault, the Cassandra of capitalism are a permanent feature of the intellectual landscape. In 1918, Oswald Spengler spooked a war-weary Europe with *The Decline of the West*. Gray goes further, claiming that "the very idea of 'the West' may already be archaic." Globalisation, he thinks, does not lead to a universal civilisation, but rather to its shipwreck.

Well, apocalyptic pathos is good for sales. But is the West merely the embodiment of modernity, as the professional pessimist presumes? In that case, it may indeed be done for. If, however, the West is a com-

plex cultural inheritance, based on Judaeo-Christian and classical foundations, then why should globalisation be its *Götterdämmerung*?

Enter Nicholas Boyle: Cambridge don, author of the best biography of Goethe in any language, now emerging from the cloister with a Christian tract for our times in the best tradition of Newman, Chesterton or T.S. Eliot. In *Who Are We Now? Christian Humanism and the Global Market* (T&T Clark), Dr Boyle analyses the revolutionary impact of globalisation, and he devotes several essays to explaining how we got here — as invisibly eruditely a brief intellectual history of the West as I have ever read.

For Dr Boyle, the challenge of the market is an exhilarating one. In the face of the dissolution of all traditions, the obsolescence of the nation state, the atomisation of humanity, the end of the bourgeois age, Christianity alone, the refuge of the dispossessed, is compatible with a new global civilisation. The bold Dr Boyle believes that globalisation can be claimed for the universal Catholic Church, the oldest and most resilient global organisation of all, which alone is capable of conferring a new identity on all these lost sheep.

Dr Boyle may be a Roman Catholic, but his notion of Christianity embraces the heretical and the heretic: indeed, the global epoch will, he says, heal the wounds of the Reformation. As a man of letters, Dr Boyle finds his faith at its most powerful in literary form. "In the age of the global market, only a Christian literature can show us — realistically — who we are."

So who is right: Gray or Boyle, the pessimist or the optimist? Mary may reply to the good doctor's question "Who are we now?" with a brusque: "Not a Christian humanist, anyhow." To juxtapose God and globalisation strikes the atheist as grotesque. Are not all religions terminal decline? Is not the lifestyle that flourishes in the global economy inimical to the morality of the Gospels? Given the choice, will not global man choose to serve Mammon Inc rather than God?

Yet the sheer courage of Boyle's convictions speaks for him, and against the secularised fatalism of Gray. Globalisation is not meaningless in his scheme of things, because it is a phase of our history, and the meaning of history is the heart of Christianity. And we cannot allow globalisation to be meaningless. Unless we can endow the globalised future with significance, even if not salvation, we shall surely lose our nerve. That really would be the decline of the West.

Who are we now? Citizens of the world — and of Christendom. You can say grace even in McDonald's.

Won't we choose to serve Mammon Inc rather than God?

IRA 'SIGNALS' ON DECOMMISSIONING



17 JUL 98

Peter Brookes

Farewell, Jerusalem

Blair's features tell a tale: it will never be glad confident morning again

Two faces, and such different faces. Tony Blair's like a winter's day on East Falkland — pale sun, chasing sleet, chasing showers: changeable and restless. Gordon Brown's is a set, leaden sky: still, heavy, and unrevealing. The faces were side by side last Tuesday for a Commons statement on the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Mr Brown did all the talking. Mr Blair, who was silent, did the communicating. If I read the Prime Minister correctly, then something is not right with him.

One of the more likeable aspects of this strange and elusive man is a fundamental honesty. He is tricky as any Prime Minister, of course, but he rarely succeeds in deceiving. Mr Blair is a dire actor. He seems physically incapable of hiding his feelings. A student of the Method school, he has to get under the skin of the character he portrays — to feel, and breathe, and be that person for half an hour, half a Parliament, or half a lifetime.

Then he can be astonishingly convincing — because he has convinced himself. In tele-evangelist mode, on conference platforms with the media agog and the crowd cheering, when he is high on the politics of ecstasy, when he has snorted another line of New Britain, New Politics, this man's performance electrifies. He believes, so we believe.

But when he does not believe, it shows. Even the quality of his skin and hair, so often the tell-tale of emotional state, tells me Blair is now torn.

In journalism we can wait until something has become fairly obvious to most intelligent readers, and then set it out clearly. This can be useful: it confirms and amplifies, and can be backed by evidence and explanation.

Or we can take a flyer: share a hunch and risk coming a cropper. I shall take the flyer. It's very early days, but I think Mr Blair is losing the plot. Icharus has flown too close to the Sun, and the wax is melting.

Recent weeks have been a watershed for my own judgment of this administration's prospects. I think they have turned. By "turned," I do not mean turned towards early failure. The road ahead looks comfortable for a while; it may lead to another elec-

tion victory; it will have all kinds of compensations and it will not be a disaster for Britain. But it is the old road, the road back. Back from the New Politics; from consensus; from coalition; from electoral reform; from the greening of Britain; from the politics of innocence; from the welfare revolution; from a transformed and leading role in Europe. Normal service is being resumed. There was one face missing on the front bench for that statement on Tuesday: John Prescott. For the Deputy Prime Minister, this month has been a triumph of unimagined proportions.

For a year now, ministers at the dispatch box, tormented by impatient backbenchers, have reminded them that, however long the journey, "it is the first steps which are important." That is true in more ways than ministers know. This month, the Cabinet took the first steps off the road to New Britain. No wonder Mr Prescott didn't come. Even that old bulldog-face from Hull would have been unable to hide his gloom.

Summer is about to intervene, and when we return to real politics this October, 1999 will be just around the corner: the year which takes us into the steepening downward slope towards the next general election. The Comprehensive Spending Review, about whose generosity we have heard so much this week, will have turned out to provide just enough for public services to keep their heads above water, yielding marginal advances in education but enabling the National Health Service to do little more than keep pace. Nothing will have been "transformed" and all the old grumbles will still be there.

It is pure fantasy to suppose that in those state, faintly disappointed circumstances, any of the projects which are dear to Mr Blair's heart — the things which set him above his party

and mark him as some kind of visionary — will be realisable. The drawing-together with Paddy Ashdown will have been stalled by muttering voices in both Houses and parties. The referendum on electoral reform will be enormously contentious (you had only to listen to Home Office Questions this week to get the measure of the backlash Jack Straw could lead). Scottish devolution, Mr Blair's bravest act, will be judged to augur ill for further constitutional change. Welsh devolution will be a sad mess. Some of this was inevitable. But the demise of the "welfare revolution"

was not. Mr Blair fumbled it. That tough-on-single-mums Commons vote last year was a spiritual catastrophe for Blairism. Welfare is adrift and we have begun to realise it. There really

was an idea here: privatised pensions and welfare-with-a-compassionate-edge amounted to something with both a moral core and a potential for long-term savings. It was also an audacious raid into the heartland of English conservatism. I see in the tired, thwarted, dispirited face of Frank Field (Minister for Welfare Reform for how much longer?) the personification of Mr Blair's big hope of moral rearmament at Social Security. Mr Field is an early sketch for what Blairism was once going to be. Sharing much of Mr Blair's own moral vision, Mr Field is a sort of reproach to the younger man: "I haven't changed; I didn't lose the faith; what happened to you?"

All that stuff, that appealing *I'd like to teach the world to sing* stuff, all that joss-sticks stuff, that Mary Hopkins-meets-Donovan-meets-Fairport Convention, all that *If I had words I would make a day for you/I would make a morning shiny and new* (the tune for which was used at Labour's triumphant 1997 conference), all those high hopes of a public

school kid with a difficult boyhood, a strong moral streak, an ambition to be somebody, a talent for scheming, an ache to attach himself to something, and a sudden emotional attachment to the religion and politics of hope and brotherhood... all those confused dreams of the mixed-up kid who has become our Prime Minister — how are they faring? What is becoming of them, and of him?

Well, he did become Prime Minister. He did become almost the most popular guy in the world. But the other dreams are fading, and for this leader that matters terribly because Mr Blair's leadership is hype-driven to a nerve-racking degree. He has lived by hype: hype fixes the feathers to his wings, and, for as long as he stays airborne on hype he can amaze and impress. But what if the spell breaks?

The praetorian guard around Mr Blair begins to look rather vulnerable: a couple of them trip and we realise he is hard-put to save them. Suddenly we start looking at his Cabinet equals — and for the first time it is possible to see them as equals. We see that Mr Brown is really rather solid. On Tuesday he told us that, beyond signing the cheques, he'll be vetting the management plans. Managing director, then? Who does that leave as non-executive chairman?

We look at Mr Straw as a Cabinet heavyweight now — decent fellow; seems to have got a grip. We reassess Mr Prescott, for the man is winning battles and Mr Blair now needs him as much as he needs Mr Blair. We mull over the coming reshuffle and reflect on how nervous Mr Blair needs to be about sending enemies outside his tent. As the candles, sheets and mirrors come down and the magic fades, Britain awakes to the realisation that this is just another Labour Government. And not a bad one either, all things considered. But it isn't the New Jerusalem. Tony Blair was Jerusalem-bound or he was nothing. Is Jerusalem on the itinerary any more? And, if it isn't...

Sitting on the front bench on Tuesday, the Prime Minister looked (and I believe felt) an intimation of, if not mortality, peripherality.

Matthew Parris

promoting sodomy as an acceptable Christian lifestyle." Compulsory odd showers in the vestry, I fear.

Wrong brand

THE backlash against "Cool Britannia" continues — this time from the American edition of *Q&A*. Next month's issue is dedicated to sending up Britain. In a pathetic attempt at shock-journalism, the Queen is pictured sporting a Union Jack G-string. Tony Blair is satirised as desperately trying to revive Britain by aping the United States, rebranding us as the "United States of Britain". Most ridiculously, the Queen "runs off" with Mohamed Al Fayed. The magazine then chooses to make fun of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, in a manner that I have no intention of repeating. Nicholas Coleridge, head of the rag's UK operation, pleads ignorance. "It is meant to be joking," he says. To the Tower.

A COMPUTER message doing the rounds of City banks contains the e-mail address of Kim Milton Nielson, the referee who sent off David Beckham (right). It urges fans to convey their appreciation. I deplore such jingoism. By the way his e-mail is kimm@datalog.dk.

Phoney calls

THAT mischievous Labour MP Bob Marshall-Andrews thought he



had arrived. Organising lunch for the club he founded to annoy the Government, he received a call from his researcher. The PM had phoned to say he wanted to deliver a speech to the free-thinking MPs, dubbed the Old Testament Prophecy, and could M-A provide a car? At his office, the MP was also told by his secretary that "a man named Brown had asked if he could talk to the group". But when M-A played back his phone messages he realised two were wind-ups from Brian Sedgmore, his fellow troublemaker. "He has a distinctive accent," says the MP. "Even when holding his nose."

JASPER GERARD

Hunted man

SIR IAN HEATHCOAT AMORY, a senior figure in the National Trust, has been treated in a beastly way by toffs after he supported the trust's ban on deerhunting. The landowner, cousin of David Heathcoat-Amory, the Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, has been verbally abused and left off invitation lists for dinner parties and shoots. Sir Ian is a member of the National Trust council, which voted unanimously to block deerhunting from its land after receiving a scientific report that the sport was cruel. Britain's three stag hunts are near his West Country home.

"The result of the ban was a bombshell," admits Sir Ian, who has since had to do penance with local red coats. "People thought 'Damn it. He ought to have been on our side.' They said to me they had thought they were safe with me as a trustee and asked 'How could you do this?'" An early sign of disapproval came from Lord Courtenay. Sir Ian says: "I shot with him for years and years. I did not shoot with him last year. I was not invited. I'm sure that was in the heat of the moment. They were cross I hadn't been more robust on behalf of country sports."

Another upser by Sir Ian has been George Lopes, brother of Lord Roberough. "What I and a lot

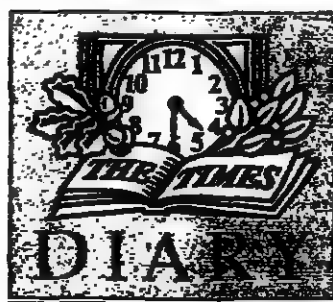
of people are saying is he could have voted or spoken against the ban," he says. "I don't think it right that those who did not speak out should swan around with a gun in their hands."

Sir Ian, whose family mills made the Queen's wedding veil, is a decent sort, now trying to rebuild old friendships. His aunt, Lady H A, the former golfer Joyce Wethered, donated her pad to the trust. I wish him neighbourly peace.

● POOR Sir John Birt. So delighted was he with his knighthood that he quickly took to signing letters



"We need more beds"



"Sir John Birt". It was only when it was pointed out to him that "Sir" is just a mildly grander form of "Mr" that the great man rapidly decided to revive his plain "John Birt".

'Jane' Bond

AT LEAST half of Britain's spies are women, according to Dame Stella Rimington, former head of MI5. The Security Service is now staffed by what she terms "James Bondesses" which "puts us ahead of the Americans". Sexual harassment, however, has not been expunged from MI5. "Things have improved tremendously," she says. "You still have to put up with rude remarks about your clothes or your hairstyle. But now there is a 50-50 split between men and women, with women in all branches. Women are given the chance to join, even as agent runners."

Dame Stella, speaking to pupils in Hampstead, said the worst aspect of her openness was un-

come attention, including invitations to appear on television with a Mr Terence Wogan. As for her early life as an archivist for Nottingham City Council, "I was persuading vicars and stately home-owners to give us their heirlooms for studying," says Dame Stella, played by Dame Judi Dench (below) in Bond films. "That's where I developed the powers of persuasion that I later used to convince people to put their lives on the line for their country."

● THE Archbishop of York is again being disturbed by sodomy. George Aspin is furious with the editor of his own diocese journal for running advertisements for something called the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement. He has now written to say: "I have the right not to read a journal which will be



هكذا من الأصل



More money will never be enough for the NHS

THE LAW'S DELAYS

More time is needed to set up the International Criminal Court

BONES OF THE TSAR

A troubled coming to terms with a traumatic regicide

Discontent with Chancellor Brown's spending plans

Eighty years on

Police sickness

Sweeping the streets

Bugged by dates

Public trust

Movie mishaps

ther, it seriously undermines the role of the Royal Colleges as custodians of

No resting place?

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Summing up the use of arithmetic

DAVE ALLEN,
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July 14.

THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY JULY 17 1998

BCC says manufacturing close to meltdown

BUSINESS TODAY

By ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Chambers of Commerce (BCC) yesterday accused the Monetary Policy Committee of not living in the real world, claiming that current policy had left manufacturing on the verge of "meltdown".

Ian Peters, deputy director-general of the BCC, attacked the Committee's emphasis on the average earnings data, insisting that wage pressures were not the real reason for the recent increase in inflation.

Mr Peters said: "What we want are more economists with more real-world experience."

Our concern is that the balance of expertise is too heavily weighted to academics."

DeAnne Julius, the only MPC member to oppose the June rate rise, is also the sole member of the committee with industry experience.

Mr Peters' comments came after the BCC's quarterly survey, covering 9,000 companies, showed manufacturing exports had fallen to a record low while domestic sales and orders stood at their worst for six years.

The service sector is also beginning to feel the brunt of the slowdown, with domestic sales and orders declining to a three-year low and exports also tumbling to their

lowest level since the depths of the last recession in 1992.

The BCC said the figures implied Britain faces a "manufacturing meltdown" while the service-sector slide is "gathering pace". "The question now facing the Monetary Policy Committee is not whether interest rates should be cut, but when," Mr Peters said.

However, Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, insisted that the BCC claims were "nonsense". "There is real concern and that is understandable but there is also a rather more mixed picture," she told the House of Commons.

Economists were less confident that the

Bank would heed the message from the BCC survey pointing to further evidence of tightening in the labour market. Firms reported increased recruitment difficulties, although the BCC said that pay settlements are beginning to ease back.

John O'Sullivan, UK economist at Greenwich NatWest, said: "With the policy discussions increasingly focused on pressures in the labour markets, these are not reassuring readings."

The BCC figures unsettled the stock market, which ended its recent bull run to close down 34.7 at 6116.8, having earlier hit a new intra-day record of 6,180.4. The pound

also slipped a penny against the market to close at DM2.3946.

Separate figures showed the public sector net cash requirement (PSNCR) widening by more than expected in June. The PSNCR, which replaces the public sector debt requirement, stood at £6.1 billion in June compared with expectations of £4.2 billion. Economists, however, dismissed concerns that the Chancellor is in danger of missing his fiscal targets. Over the three months of the financial year so far, the PSNCR is £2.8 billion lower than at the same point last year.

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Angered names at Lloyd's prepare to revolt

By ADAM JONES

WEALTHY individuals who have traditionally backed Lloyd's of London may revolt if the insurance market decides to reduce their presence on its ruling body.

Sir Adam Ridley, the deputy chairman of the Association of Lloyd's Members (ALM), warned the insurance market yesterday that angry names could take the extreme measure of calling an extraordinary meeting of Lloyd's members. It would be the first since Lloyd's nearly went bust in the early 1990s.

At present, five members of the 19-strong Council of Lloyd's are drawn from the dwindling number of traditional names. There are only two members representing "corporate capital" — the money from pooled funds and companies that was brought in to stave off financial collapse earlier this decade.

In just four years, corporate capital has grown to dominate the market, accounting for 60 per cent of underwriting capacity this year. The companies and funds are now demanding commensurate influence over the running of Lloyd's and want their representation increased.

Partly in response to this pressure, Lloyd's asked Peter Kent, a former director of the Bank of England, to work on proposals for reform. A consultation document issued earlier this year recommended that a plc-type board should be adopted in the long term, with corporate capital and traditional names given three seats between them.

Until then, Mr Kent said, capital providers should split six seats according to how much underwriting they actually supported. On 1998 underwriting levels, this would

give both sides three seats each. Final recommendations are expected to go before the Lloyd's Council next month.

Sir Adam, who also sits on the Council of Lloyd's, told the annual conference of the ALM yesterday that the reforms so far envisaged by Mr Kent "would change the balance of membership of the council to such a degree that we would no longer be confident that we could protect our rights."

He said an extraordinary meeting could be called if they went through without measures to "entrench" the rights of traditional names to underwrite with unlimited liability. This could take the form of statutory protection to guarantee that unlimited liability names could still be recruited.

Traditional names would have enough voting muscle in an extraordinary meeting to overturn anything that threatened their future in the society.

Sir David Berriman, the chairman of the ALM, used his retirement speech to say unlimited liability names could become an "oppressed minority".

Sir David also criticised members' managing agents, claiming they had not reduced charges to reflect the fact that the central Lloyd's bureaucracy now does many of the things they used to do.

He claimed the ALM has been vindicated in warning names to be careful of selling their underwriting capacity too cheaply. He said managing agents have shown themselves willing to pay higher prices, despite "prophecies of gloom from the same agents a year ago". Sir David is succeeded at the head of the ALM by Michael Deeny.

Names still best, page 31



Denis Cassidy becomes the chairman of the Newcastle United holding company

Newcastle Utd makes Cassidy new chairman

NEWCASTLE UNITED yesterday said the issue of whether Freddy Shepherd and Douglas Hall, the two disgraced directors, would return to the club, was still under discussion, despite agreeing a new chairman and non-executive director (Jason Nisse writes).

Denis Cassidy, the former Liberty and Boddingtons chairman, assumed the post vacated when Sir Terence Harrison resigned two months ago. John Joseph, a radio entrepreneur, was also appointed as a non-executive director.

Commentary page 29

Lawyer confirms Hinchliffe's role

By JASON NISSE

LAWYERS acting for Stephen Hinchliffe, the controversial Sheffield businessman, yesterday confirmed that his investment company, Chase Montagu, controlled Feelgood Leisure, the mail order firm.

Keith Oliver, a partner at Peters & Peters, said that Feelgood's purchase of the assets of PricewaterhouseCoopers, the administrators of Facia Footwear, Mr Hinchliffe's retailing business which collapsed in 1996. After Facia's failure, the

administrators obtained a mareva injunction freezing Mr Hinchliffe's assets.

Mr Oliver said yesterday that the injunction "was no impediment to Mr Hinchliffe or his companies operating in the ordinary and normal course of business and that he is strenuously defending the proceedings brought against him by the administrators."

Mr Oliver, however, refused to discuss when Mr Hinchliffe called himself Stephen Leonard when visiting the business he was buying.

Gas revolution in Peru halted as Shell and Mobil pull out

By CARL MORTIMER, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

SHELL and Mobil have pulled out of a vast project to pipe gas from the Amazon jungle to the coast of Peru.

The oil companies walked away from signing an agreement with the government after 11th-hour negotiations on Wednesday, causing embarrassment to Peru's President, Alberto Fujimori, who once described the \$3 billion (£1.8 billion) Camisea project as "the contract of the century."

The two sides failed to agree on key issues relating to the development of a market for a fuel which does not yet exist in Peru. The core of the dispute appears to be resistance by Peru to a potential distribution monopoly for Shell.

The oil companies wanted government guarantees that a distribution network would be in place in the capital Lima when the pipeline reached the coast. In addition they demanded a more favourable tariff arrangement for gas to promote gas power stations.

The Peruvian Government resisted the oil companies' demands and refused to consider a proposal from Shell that it be allowed to build its own distribution network.

Reports from Peru suggested that the Government could put out to tender a new project

within two months based on carving up the project into separate components: exploration, pipeline, distribution.

The failure to agree terms will mean the oil companies will share a \$250 million exploration write-off relating to the huge cost of developing a gasfield in virgin rainforest.

Peru may face a bigger disappointment, as the new energy source was expected to lead to industrial development. The Asian crisis and El Niño have delivered a double whammy to Peru's exports of minerals and fishmeal.

However, oil analysts suggested that Shell and Mobil could be back in the saddle before long. Nick Antill of Morgan Stanley, the broker, said: "Shell and Mobil have been in this thing since its inception."

The 13 trillion cubic feet gasfield at Camisea was discovered by Shell in the mid-1980s but was abandoned because the oil company saw no market for the product. But Shell returned in 1994 and signed a two-year agreement to develop the field in 1996. In May, the Peruvian Government granted Shell a two-month extension.

Commentary, page 29

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	6116.8	(-34.7)
Nikkei	8392.2	(-12.43)
Dow Jones	16731.92	(+117.78)
S&P Composite	1173.80	(-1.01)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.75%	(5.75%)
Long Bond	5.70%	(108)
Yield	5.70%	(5.70%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	7.14%	(7.14%)
Life long gld	108.58	(108.44)

STERLING

New York	1.6388	(1.6388)
London	1.6378	(1.6378)
DM	2.8302	(2.8302)
FF	8.8216	(8.8216)
SP	2.4648	(2.4648)
Yen	229.57	(229.40)
S. India	104.6	(104.6)

US \$

London	1.7888	(1.7891)
DM	5.9975	(6.0320)
FF	1.5048	(1.5128)
Yen	140.22	(140.51)
S. India	112.7	(113.1)

Tokyo close Yen 136.73

EUROPEAN STOCK EXCHANGES

Brent 15-day (Oct)	613.80	(N/A)
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COMMODITIES

London close	892.85	(892.85)
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* denotes midday trading price

Cendant blow

THE crisis at Cendant, the new American owner of National Car Parking and the RAC motoring division, has deepened after a boardroom split between factions from the two companies that merged to form Cendant.

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Empty shops

Sales growth evaporated at W H Smith and Marks & Spencer last month as the World Cup, bad weather and interest rate worries kept customers at home. Sir Richard Greenbury, chairman of Marks & Spencer blamed "appalling weather in June, falling tourism and the disruption in the 20 major stores we are enlarging or refurbishing."

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Director pay rises at twice inflation rate

By RICHARD MILES

DIRECTORS' pay has risen by more than twice the rate of inflation over the past three years, according to a survey published today by William M Mercer, the benefits consultancy.

Chief executives of large British companies receive an average base salary of £549,000, an increase of 23 per cent since 1995. But cash bonuses now make up more than half of their total pay.

The study, on the third anniversary of the Greenbury Report on executive pay, shows that UK chief executives are sitting on share options worth an average £1.4 million.

The £52.2 million of options granted to Jan Leschly, chief executive of SmithKline Beecham, are not part of

the survey, but the £9.6 million of options held by Sir Clive Thompson, chief executive of Rentokil Initial, are.

Of the 20 FTSE-100 chief executives surveyed, Sir Clive is one of best remunerated, holding shares valued at £23.7 million in addition to his options. A distant third is Robert Ingram, chief executive of Glaxo Wellcome, with shares worth £6.4 million and £437,725 in unrealised option gains.

Sean O'Hare, leader of Mercors executive compensation practice, said: "UK directors' salaries have increased since Greenbury, but this does not mean Greenbury has failed. Their pay is now more closely tied to corporate performance. This is good news for the economy as a whole."

Expenses 'outrage' of ex-Cortecs chief

By PAUL DURMAN

GLEN TRAVERS, recently ousted as chairman of Cortecs, had two salaries contracts that entitled him to benefits including a cheap mortgage, £33,000 a year for school fees, and £34,500 for air tickets to Australia for his family.

Other unusual benefits included £42,400 for fees, travel and accommodation related to his membership of the Young President's Organisation for business high-fliers, £13,000 for accountancy expenses, and £33,800 for his car expenses outside the UK. This is in addition to a Jaguar and "a second vehicle of equivalent status".

One shareholder said the level of Mr Travers' expenses was "outrageous" and the Cortecs board, now headed by Lord Patten, the former Conservative

Party chairman, is holding an internal audit.

Mr Travers is suing Cortecs for an estimated £1.5 million — two years of salary and benefits. Last year he was paid £398,000.

His entitlement to a 4 per cent mortgage is particularly unusual for a small drug development company that lost £11.7 million last year.

According to Mr Travers' writ, the mortgage and most of the other unusual benefits are set out in a letter from Leon Ivory, chairman of the company remuneration committee and a long-time colleague of Mr Travers.

The arrangements came to the light after James Long was made the firm's first main board finance director.

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Siemens out to engineer a shake-up for recovery

By CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

SIEMENS, Germany's largest electronics group, plans a big shake-up of its businesses, including disposals and demergers in an effort to improve its stagnating financial performance.

The shift in strategy accompanied a warning that earnings would not outpace sales growth, as previously predicted by the company. Siemens has been hurt by the Asian crisis and a vicious downward spiral in the price of semiconductors. Heinrich von Pierer, chief executive of Siemens, predicted that semiconductors would lose DM1 billion (£345 million) in the current year.

Herr Von Pierer said the company's nine-month results were unsatisfactory, with sales rising 15 per cent but only a 5 per cent growth in net income to DM1.78 billion for the period to June. The order book soared in America and Europe but suffered a 21 per cent decline in Asia.

Weak results in power generation, semiconductors, mobile phones and transport have pushed Siemens into a reversal of its policy towards selling businesses. Siemens announced on Wednesday that it had sold its power trans-

mission cables business to Pirelli, the Italian tyre and cable maker for DM500 million.

Herr Von Pierer yesterday outlined a 10-point plan for Siemens's recovery which includes plant closures in the semiconductor business, business reorganisations, property sales, share buy-backs, disposals and separate listings for parts of the group. He said: "Businesses that cannot generate their capital costs are being put on the spot."

Siemens's shares gained more than 10 per cent, despite the weak profits. Analysts speculated that Osram, the successful lighting business, might be a candidate for a listing, as would the medical engineering business. Siemens is planning a tie-up with a US company in the communications sector.

Herr Von Pierer ruled out further large acquisitions. Siemens recently bought Elektrowatt and the Westinghouse power plant business. But the chief executive added: "We want to create the conditions that will allow creative new deals, such as those involving an exchange of stock."



Sour taste: Thornton's has withdrawn 15 new varieties of unpopular chocolates at a cost of almost £300,000. Roger Paffard, the chief executive, pictured left with Jonathan Fellows, finance director, admitted catching a cold being too innovative, but "novelty is part of the business". Analysts lowered profit forecasts for the year to £15.5 million, from £15.9 million. *Tempus*, page 30

Cendant splits over chairman

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

THE crisis at Cendant, the new American owner of National Car Parking and the RAC motoring division, has deepened after a boardroom split over the ousting of the chairman.

Walter Forbes, the present chairman, is being held responsible for the falsification of accounts by half the directors, while the other half suspects

Henry Silverman, the chief executive, of planning a coup against Mr Forbes.

Cendant was formed last year by the \$14 billion (£8.5 billion) merger of HFS, headed by Mr Silverman, and CUC, led by Mr Forbes. The two men had agreed to swap roles in 2000 but Mr Silverman is now said to have doubts about handing the

chief executive's position to Mr Forbes.

Mr Silverman's camp is holding Mr Forbes responsible for the made-up CUC accounts exposed in April. Mr Forbes said he was not aware of any problems at the time. Earlier this week, auditors said the fake revenues were more than double the original estimates of about \$100 mil-

lion. Cendant will restate accounts for the last three years.

The 28-member board is evenly split between former CUC and HFS people. Both sides are supporting their former bosses and have hired separate legal advisers.

Mr Forbes said: "I fully plan to become chief executive." To oust him, the board needs an 80 per cent majority.

Morgan to launch UK retail fund

By CAROLINE MERRILL

MORGAN Stanley Dean Witter, the \$34 billion US securities company, yesterday unveiled its plans for a UK fund management company aimed at retail investors.

The funds will carry no initial charge or bid/offer spread but there will be an annual charge of 1.6 per cent. The company is hoping to emulate the US market, where nearly half the mutual funds carry no initial charge.

Morgan Stanley, which is backing the launch with a multi-million pound advertising campaign, also aims to increase the percentage of people buying investment funds in the UK. Only 10 per cent of households hold unit trusts or their equivalent compared to 40 per cent in the US.

The company will initially offer three funds with varying strategies. One will invest in UK companies, another in European companies, and the third internationally.

Lawyers urge 'fair play' for windfall wives

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

DIVORCE lawyers are urging MPs to back a "fair play" Bill to come before the Commons tomorrow as a way to end disputes between divorcing couples as a result of building society windfalls.

The Solicitors' Family Law Association (SFLA), which represents 4,500 family lawyers in England and Wales, said that many divorcing wives are having to resort to legal wrangling to receive a fair share of the windfall.

David Salter, chairman of the SFLA, said: "The windfall is paid to the first name on the account — usually the husband — even if the account is jointly held."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Fear of MMC block fuels Ladbroke dip

SHARES in Ladbroke retreated yesterday on fears that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission may block its £363 million takeover of Bass's Coral betting shop chain. Industry sources are increasingly convinced that the MMC is determined to preserve a third force in bookmaking behind Ladbroke and William Hill. However, it is unclear whether this would mean Ladbroke, which signed an unconditional deal with Bass, having to sell all 833 Coral shops in the UK or a proportion of the combined 2,600-strong Ladbroke/Coral estate.

Earlier this week, the Tote, which agreed to buy 133 shops from Ladbroke as part of the Coral deal in December, said it would consider bidding for the entire Coral estate if it was put up for sale. Stanley Leisure is also likely to be interested. Ladbroke shares closed 5p lower at 318½p, although most analysts believe the level of interest from potential bidders could enable it to recoup most of what it paid. The MMC's report does not affect the 50 Coral shops in the Republic of Ireland. Ladbroke declined to comment, while the MMC would only confirm that it has until the end of this month to present its report to Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade.

Shamed firms clear

THE Government has removed 12 names from the "naming and shaming" list of companies that it said had been slow to compensate the victims of pensions mis-selling. The Treasury said the companies, from an original list of 41, have now compensated enough people to allow them to be removed. The companies are Axa Equity & Law, Barclays Life, Britannic Assurance, Commercial Union, Godwins, Guardian, Lloyds TSB, Midland Bank, Norwich Union, Prudential, Royal & Sun Alliance and United Assurance.

MacKenzie close to deal

KELVIN MACKENZIE, the former deputy chief executive of the Mirror Group, yesterday moved closer to taking control of Talk Radio, the national commercial speech radio station. TalkCo, the consortium headed by Mr MacKenzie, said yesterday that it had signed heads of agreement with CLT-UFA, the company which owns 62 per cent of the UK radio station. TalkCo has the support of MVI, the venture capital group which currently owns 35 per cent of the station, and of News International, parent company of *The Times*.

Capital court threat

THE Radio Authority could face a judicial review of its decision to allow Capital Radio, the largest radio group, to re-broadcast its London Capital Gold service on its other radio stations, after the intervention of Francis Wildman, an unsuccessful applicant for a commercial station in Kent. He said he had been told Mr Justice Forbes wanted to hear the issues argued in open court. Lord Hunt, the Labour peer, is to question the Government about the authority "consenting to departures from the terms of independent radio licences".

Vega shares drop

SHARES in Vega Group, the software and engineering company, fell 15p to 442½p after the company reported pre-tax profits for the year to April 30 down £200,000 at £3.1 million. Earnings per share are slightly down on last year at 13.75p (13.79p). The board proposes to freeze the final year dividend at 3.5p, making a total dividend of 5.41p (5.41p). Turnover increased 25 per cent to £22.5 million (£18 million) on the back of record orders for the year of £32.5 million (£19 million). The dividend is payable on August 14.

Britannic sales boost

SHARES in Britannic Assurance rose 19p to £12.61½ after the life insurer announced a 15.6 per cent increase in new business for the half year to June. Total new regular premiums improved by 14.1 per cent to £21.30 million (£18.66 million) and new single premiums were up by 22.9 per cent to £48.22 million (£39.25 million). Analysts said Britannic appeared to have recovered from the disruption caused by management changes last year, while Brian Shaw, the chief executive, said the results showed improved productivity.

Johnson cashes in

LUKE JOHNSON, the entrepreneur who floated PizzaExpress, has added £1.82 million to his personal fortune by cashing in his entire holding of convertible shares in the restaurant chain. Mr Johnson, who earns £100,000 a year from his businesses, secured 500,000 shares at 436p apiece and sold them for 800p each. Shares of the company added 22p to 828p yesterday. The windfall is his second in as many months. In May, he sold his shareholding in American Port Services to Associated British Ports for £950,000.

Thai financiers lose £2bn

THAILAND'S finance and securities companies lost almost \$5 billion (£2 billion) in 1997, according to the Thai Securities and Exchange Commission. During 1996, the industry compiled profits of £800 million. The SEC report attributed the sectors losses to declining loan revenues and asset quality, higher funding costs and foreign-exchange losses. When Thailand floated the baht a year ago the currency lost some 50 per cent of its value. More than half of the country's finance companies have since been closed.

Novartis sales up 1%

NOVARTIS, the Swiss pharmaceutical company, raised its first-half sales by 1 per cent to SwFr 16.77 billion (£6.8 billion). The group said its first-half pharmaceutical sales were 3 per cent higher than in 1997, although it did not specify the amount. Over the full year, Novartis expects a marked increase in net income to record levels. It called 1998 a transition year marked by a shift from integration to a focus on growth and product launches. Novartis will present its first-half 1998 earnings report at the end of August.

Siberia oil company polishes PR image

By CARL MORTISHED

RUSSIA'S public sector is heading towards anarchy or tyranny, some say, but in the private sector, one company is determined to be a model of corporate propriety. Sibneft, the Siberian oil company is to adopt Russia's first corporate governance charter and is committed to all the paraphernalia: non-executive directors, audit, remuneration and nomination committees.

Eugene Shvidler, president of Sibneft, said the move was logical. "The idea is to publicise how the board works." He is contemplating publishing plans for director's remuneration.

"I see no reason not to," Mr Shvidler said. He is even adopting a "communications policy", placing the oil company light-years ahead of Gazprom, Russia's largest company.

Brunswick, the City public relations firm helped Sibneft by introducing a panel of experts to draw up the charter. These included Jonathan Charkham, a former director of Pro Ned and adviser to the Bank of England but also Sir Geoffrey Owen from the LSE. Jack Spinks, a director at Shell and Simon Walker, communications director at BA.

Commentary, page 29

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.88	2.91
Austria Sch	21.82	19.26
Belgium Fr	69.82	28.68
Canada \$	2.58	1.74
Cyprus Cyp	0.904	0.832
Denmark Kr	11.76	10.87
Dracm	1.78	1.71
Finland Mk	8.46	8.71
France Fr	10.30	9.82
Germany Dr	3.09	2.85
Greece Dr	914	472
Hong Kong \$	12.82	12.32
Iceland	129	108
Israel Sh	6.38	5.70
Italy Lit	205.28	228.75
Japan Yen	166	155
Malaysia	0.676	0.617
Netherlands Gld	3.498	3.201
New Zealand \$	13.00	12.04
Norway Kr	11.76	10.87
Portugal Esc	200.48	190.48
S Africa Rd	10.78	9.82
Spain Ps	166.13	154.13
Sweden Kr	10.30	9.82
Switzerland Fr	2.61	2.41
Turkey Lira	45.067	42.073
USA \$	1.745	1.602

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Different rates apply to travelers' cheques Rates as at close of trading

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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A question of black and white

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor



It would be nice to say that the continuing battle over the stewardship of Newcastle United is not a black and white issue. But it is. It is a fight to secure the principles of sound corporate governance over the interests of a majority shareholder. It shows that mistakes made when the club (and many other companies, it has to be said) was floated, come back to haunt it weeks, months and years after the initial listing. It shows why the shares have underperformed the football sector — a sickly beast itself — and maybe even when the Magpies have suffered such a poor season on the football field. Amazingly enough, the battle is still a festering sore that yesterday's appointment of a new chairman and a new non-executive director has done little to treat.

It is hard not to like Denis Cassidy. The genial Georgie has had a long and distinguished business career. But lately it has been going sour, with him being ousted from Liberty, presiding over a reversal in fortunes at Ferguson International and Oliver Group, and facing two shareholder revolts in a year. He is the only one of the original five non-executive directors of Newcastle United still to be on the board and by process of elimination he became the obvious candidate as chairman. Even then it took two months for his position to be confirmed as the board battled over the issue

of what to do with Freddy Shepherd and Douglas Hall.

The two directors were recorded by a journalist in a Spanish brothel. They candidly and insultingly discussed the Newcastle United players and supporters. In any normal company they would have been sacked immediately. But Mr Shepherd's company owns 9 per cent of the club's shares and Mr Hall's 57 per cent. It took weeks to have them ousted and then only when Sir John Hall, Douglas's father, was allowed to return as chairman of Newcastle United Football Club, the subsidiary that effectively runs the club.

Sir John then started the process of trying to bring the duo back into the club. Sir Terence Harrison, chairman of the parent company, and John Mayo, the respected finance director of GEC and non-executive at Newcastle, resisted. They ultimately gave up the fight and resigned. The wrangling went on and yesterday, when Mr Cassidy was asked whether Freddy and Douglas were to make a return, he said this was still unresolved.

Unresolved? This is a company with thousands of investors whose shares are regularly traded on the market. It is a

company that deserves to be run by people respected by the City, the employees and the fans, who ultimately pay everyone's wages. If the Hall and Shepherd family think it is their fiefdom they should do the honourable thing and take the business private again. Otherwise they should let this public company be run as a proper business and accept that Freddy and Douglas have forfeited their right to have a role in it.

Shell v Peru in haggle in the jungle

Forget any idea that the world is short of natural gas. Russia is floating on it and huge discoveries have been made in all corners of the globe, from Namibia to Kazakhstan. Sadly there is no correlation between the gas and its potential markets. Moving the stuff long distances costs a lot more, rel-

ative to value, than moving even the crudest of oil. Gas in the wrong place, without a market, can therefore easily be worthless.

That is essentially the problem in Peru. Shell, with Mobil in tow, has uncovered one of the biggest natural gas deposits of all near Camisea, in the jungle where sources of the Amazon rise. Not a lot of demand there.

To build a 500-km gas pipeline right across the Andes to Peru's coastal capital Lima would cost about £1.5 billion and multiply the financial risk. Shell wants Peru to shoulder much of that risk by guaranteeing a market and a price.

This appears to be one of those projects that simply would not happen in a competitive, purely private enterprise market. But a deal should do it.

Peru's president, Alberto Fujimori, is not anxious to see the full downstream distribution network controlled by Shell. He has not helped by licensing more

coal-fired power stations. But he and his Government of technocrats have doubtless also learnt a thing or two from all those old British Gas take-or-pay contracts for North Sea gas.

Once the pipeline is built, Shell could be held to ransom, before it is built. President Fujimori can be. The Camisea project, worth about £1.8 billion inward investment in itself, could easily bring another £2 billion of industrial investment in its train. It is central to the country's economic expansion plan. The President's prestige and the country's image as an attractive host for foreign investment are at stake. Abandoning Camisea would leave a huge hole. Peru's new-found, much-needed political stability could fall down it.

In such a stand-off, a top multinational is as powerful as a developing country. Mr Fujimori had plenty of practice during the Japanese Embassy siege 18 months ago. He hoped to an-

nounce a Camisea deal on his visit to London last week. Shell took extra time to say no, at least saving him embarrassment. But Shell has not walked away. Nor is it likely to hand over the fruits of its \$250 million initial work to a rival. Even Shell cannot afford to let projects like this slip away. Seconds out for the next round of the haggle in the jungle.

Ain't nobody here but us chickens

Page 36 of the Unigate annual report makes illuminating reading. The company says that it is falling into line with best practice for corporate governance (as espoused in the Cadbury and Hempel reports), and only hiring new executives on one-year contracts. Yet its chief executive, the £766,000-a-year Sir Ross Buckland, is on a 24-month deal which extends to 36 months in the event of the group being taken over.

A quick call to investing institutions yesterday found many of them unhappy about Sir Ross's notice period, which is a double breach of best practice (being both more than a year and

having a change of control clause), but few willing to act. One even said: "When Granada cut notice periods, it made an ex-gratia payment to the directors. We don't want that to happen again." Golly gosh. This sounds even more chicken than Unigate's product portfolio.

Thankfully the Unigate remuneration committee, led by John MacGragor, the former Tory cabinet minister, is made of sterner stuff. It has pointed out this anomaly to Sir Ross, and discussions are taking place. Expect a deal to cut his notice period to a year to be struck soon with not a penny paid to the Unigate boss. With even Russian companies adopting corporate governance principles, Unigate's model, rather than the disgraceful show delivered by Granada, should now be adopted across the upper echelons of British industry.

Lone voice

FIFTY-EIGHT million people agree with DeAnne Julius. Crucially eight do not. The British Chambers of Commerce yesterday accused the Monetary Policy Committee of being out of touch with the country and not having enough representatives from business. Indeed Eddie George and crew are close to achieving the impossible, for many people are now wishing interest rate policy was back in the hands of the politicians.

WHS and M&S growth washed away in wet June

By Sarah Cunningham and Jennifer Hanawald

WH SMITH and Marks & Spencer saw their sales growth evaporate last month as the World Cup, bad weather and interest rate worries kept customers at home.

Sir Richard Greenbury, chairman of Marks & Spencer, told the company's annual meeting that "appalling weather in June, falling tourism and the disruption in the 20 major stores we are enlarging or refurbishing" had affected trade.

Sales of food were 5.3 per cent ahead in April and May, but a slow June meant the quarter was only 3.6 per cent ahead. Other sales were 10.3 per cent ahead at the end of May, but after June the quarter was "barely 5 per cent up".

WH Smith reported that same-store sales rose 7 per cent in the year to May 31, but were then flat in June. Richard Handover, chief executive, said that the World Cup had had a major effect, and that business has picked up in July. Keith Hammill, finance director, said that falling consumer confidence as a result of interest rate rises was also affecting sales. "It does appear that there are indications of a downturn in consumers' willingness to buy things," he said, adding that other retailers were talking of bad trade in June continuing into July.

The British Retail Consortium reported earlier this

week that retailers had suffered their worst sales performance for more than three years, with the value of like-for-like sales down 0.1 per cent compared with a year earlier.

They were speaking as the company reported pre-tax profit in the year to May 31 up 15 per cent to £143 million. WH Smith said it is planning to start its £100 million rolling-on market purchase of shares. It would not say how it intends to spend the £145 million it has collected this month from Virgin for its stake in Virgin Our Price.

The retail division, which operates the 409 WH Smith high street stores, saw profits grow 16 per cent to £43 million on sales that grew 5 per cent, like-for-like, to £837 million.

The news division saw profits up from £43 million to £50 million but the loss of a major distribution contract will hit profits in the current year. The US business had flat profits at £10 million despite sales rising 14 per cent to £175 million.

Earnings per share rose from 29.5p to 35p. The company is changing its year end to August 31, and will pay a second interim dividend of 11.5p (10.4p final). It also proposes to pay an additional one-off final dividend to cover the period from June, which has yet to be set.



Tempus, page 30 Sir Richard Greenbury chided bad weather and falling tourism

C&W plans a £887m share placement

CABLE & WIRELESS, the British cable and telecoms group, yesterday said it was planning to launch a £887 million share placing to fund the £1.1 billion acquisition of MCI's Internet business revealed on Tuesday (Chris Ayres writes).

MCI had agreed to sell only some of its Internet assets to C&W, but was forced to dispose of all of them to gain approval from the US Justice Department and the European Commission for its \$37 billion (£22.6 billion) merger with WorldCom.

C&W will place 112 million new shares at 800p each. It is thought to be the biggest Stock Exchange share placing. Its shares fell 20p to 822p in early trading, but recovered to close at 840p. The placement would not be conditional on the acquisition, C&W said.

Biotech chief's disappointment

By Paul Durman

APPARENTLY chastened by its recent troubles, British Biotech yesterday struck a cautious tone as it set out the challenges it faces in bringing its cancer drug to market.

The company pointed out that the lead trial of marimastat is in pancreatic cancer, "widely regarded as one of the most aggressive cancers and therefore one of the most demanding benchmarks".

The excitement about marimastat was based on its apparent effectiveness against a wide range of cancers. Two years ago, the hopes gave British Biotech a stock market value of £2 billion, almost ten times its current worth.

John Raismann, chairman, said the last year had been disappointing because of the company's failure to win regu-

latory approval for its pancreatic drug and the controversy over the allegations made by Andy Millar, sacked as director of clinical trials in April.

The cost of producing a circular to deal with the allegations contributed to a £2.1 million one-off charge, which also covered the cost of 42 redundancies. British Biotech's operating losses escalated to £56.2 million (£37.9 million) in the year to end April. Interest receipts brought the pre-tax losses down to £44.8 million (£28.9 million).

With more than 2,500 patients in clinical trials, research and development spending rose to £42.2 million. Malcolm Fallon, finance director, confirmed that Keith McCullagh, chief executive, will be leaving the company in September.

Hemmings raises stake in Vymura

A HOSTILE takeover bid for Vymura, the wallpaper company, came closer yesterday as Pontius businessman Trevor Hemmings increased his ownership (Robert Cole writes).

Mr Hemmings, via an investment vehicle he controls called Guild Ventures, bought 800,000 shares in Vymura earlier in the week — equivalent to a 3.1 per cent stake in Vymura, taking Guild's total holding to 22.3 per cent. It has to bid for the whole company at 29.9 per cent.

Guild has raised its stake in Vymura from just over 9 per cent in March. The additional investment cost nearly £1.1 million and the whole stake is worth £7.8 million. Shares were unchanged at 135p yesterday.

Gas group voices fear of job cuts

By Christine Buckley
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SOME 1,300 jobs will be lost in the offshore gas industry and £2 billion of investment in new gas fields will be cut if the current moratorium on gas power stations is maintained, the Government has been warned.

The threat comes in the UK Offshore Operators' Association's submission to the energy review that was launched to secure a market for coal. The review, consultation on which closes next Monday, proposed a continued block on new gas-fired power stations despite fierce objections from the industry.

The association claims that if the Government keeps the moratorium for five years then new gas fields would have to be deferred. In addition to delayed investment in new fields, it says that £1.8 billion would be lost to the Treasury in tax revenue.

Hi-Tec Sports in waiting game for higher bidders

By Fraser Nelson

HI-TEC SPORTS, the trainers group, said yesterday it has received many takeover offers from "high quality" bidders since putting itself up for sale in April — but has failed to be able to agree a price with anyone.

Frank van Wezel, the chairman who controls 52 per cent of the shares, said he has been "gratified" by the attention from other companies but has not yet been offered a sufficiently high price.

A recovery in America accomplished by focusing on the performance rather than fashion end of the market, helped the company turn its best profits for six years in the 52 weeks to May 1.

Even though turnover continued its long-term decline, buying cheaper from Far Eastern factories allowed a

group pre-tax profit of £3.7 million (£3.14 million) over the period — some £300,000 behind City forecasts.

The company said conditions in Europe had been tough, and that stiff competition reduced profits in the area from £1 million to £330,000. It added that the turmoil at Nike is not necessarily good news, as many sports shops may be left with unwanted Nike trainers and be less willing to restock with other brands.

Overall, earnings were 5.4p (4.5p) per share. A final dividend of 0.9p makes a total 1.5p (1.2p), which will yield £398,000 for Mr van Wezel. The shares added 1½p to 44½p, valuing the company at £22 million. At this level, he would make £11.7 million from a takeover.

Atlantic to raise £110m for growth

By Chris Ayres

ATLANTIC TELECOM, the upstart Scottish wireless telecoms operator which recently won government approval to extend its service throughout Britain, yesterday said it planned to raise £110 million.

The company, which is capitalised at about £76 million, will raise £50 million through a placing of 33.3 million shares at 150p each, and £60 million through a senior debt facility. Atlantic said the package would finance expansion in Scotland.

The group said it had made a good start to the year, with customers rising to 35,321 at the end of June from 31,083 at the end of March. However, losses deepened from £2.8 million to £9.5 million during the year to March, while sales rose 37 per cent from £6.7 million to £10.6 million. The loss per share deepened from 7.25p to 18.86p.

David S Smith slides on sterling

By Timon Day

STERLING'S rise against continental currencies knocked £40 million off David S Smith's full-year profits to May 2, accounting for nearly all the 48 per cent pre-tax fall to £51.1 million.

Peter Williams, chief executive of the paper and packaging manufacturer, said the immediate outlook is not much better. The shares fell 12p to 202½p.

The key pound-mark rate has worsened from 2.51 to 2.93 in Smith's financial year, making a total sterling appreciation of about 30 per cent over two years. The

effect is twofold in reducing the value of continental profits and forcing price cuts in the UK to combat increased imports.

Mr Williams is pessimistic about the UK, which accounted for two-thirds of last year's profits: "We are losing markets to continental competitors who can undercut our prices by 20 to 30 per cent."

The revival of continental economies has helped the group's French and German operations, with profits rising in the second half. Further recovery is expected, particularly in office products.

The price war is abating with long-awaited paper price rises of 10 per cent

last spring after collapsing from £350 to £200 per tonne.

John Dickinson Stationery, bought for £17 million two years ago, is back in the red, prompting thoughts of recouping this sum by shutting its valuable site in Hemel Hempstead for housing re-development.

Cost-cutting trimmed overheads by around £35 million last year and a similar amount will be cut this year. Capital investment will also fall. The dividend rises 2.5 per cent to 8.2p after a 5.5p final on earnings down from 23.1p to 11.9p.

Tempus, page 30

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Stock Market Writer of the Year

Asda chased higher as stock shortage revealed

MARKET-MAKERS were feeling the heat as Asda became the best performer among the top 100 companies, racing up 8p to 214p and highlighting an apparent stock shortage.

By the close of business almost ten million shares had changed hands with one buyer mopping up loose stock with the purchase of 1.45 million shares at 207.5p. It was followed by the purchase of a further 395,400 shares at 214p.

This rush for stock caught out at least one market-maker who was scurrying to cover a short position without much apparent success. Brokers say the shares — just 4p below their peak — could be driven higher again today if sellers do not materialise.

The rest of the equity market saw an early 30-point lead frittered away as investors became increasingly nervous about the outlook for the economy. It followed the latest survey from the British Chambers of Commerce showing manufacturing confidence at its lowest level for six years. Dual trading statements from Marks & Spencer, unchanged at 544p, and WH Smith, 3p higher at 546p, also revived concerns about the outlook for retailers generally.

A firm opening start to trading on Wall Street enabled the FTSE 100 index to have its losses, ending 34.7 down at 4,116.8. Turnover topped a billion shares helped by a large placing in Cable & Wireless, down 2p at 840p.

It was pay day again for Luke Johnson, the former stockbroker, who walked away with a cool profit of £1.82 million after paying £2.18 million to convert 500,000 PizzaExpress deferred convertible non-voting shares into ordinary shares (0.75 per cent) at 430p. He then promptly sold them on for 800p each. Johnson continues to hold 138,000 shares in PizzaExpress, up 22p at 828p. Whitbread firmed 13p to 950p ahead of a presentation for brokers in the City last night. Pub operators have lost some good cheer lately with trading conditions less buoyant than analysts were led to believe.

J D Wetherspoon firmed up to 289p despite claims that Dresdner Kleinwort Benson had cut its profit numbers. England's exit from the World Cup in a penalty shoot-out with Argentina cost the group



England's exit from the World Cup through David Batty's penalty miss has had repercussions for J D Wetherspoon

dearly after installing a large number of widescreen televisions in its pubs at great expense. Publicans have complained of a sharp drop in sales since England's exit.

Cable & Wireless slipped 2p to 840p as ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, and Cazenove placed 112 million new shares at 800p. The £887 million raised by the placing

will help to finance the £1.07 billion purchase of MCI Communications' Internet business.

TI Group rose 4p to 450p. It follows "buy" recommendations from HSBC, James Capel and Credit Lyonnais. Lady Luck continued to smile on the casino operators with the Government's decision to allow them to advertise

for Thames from "neutral" to "underperform" after the recent sharp rise in its share price.

James Hutton-Mills at Morgan Stanley said: "Although Thames' profit and dividend outlook remain positive relative to other water companies, it did not justify the high share price."

Merrill Lynch, the broker, urged clients to reduce their holdings in Anglian, down 12p at 888p. It is worried about regulatory interference and the group's failure to diversify.

Earlier in the day Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, the US securities house, downgraded its recommen-

nationally and increase the cash prizes in gaming machines. According to Credit Suisse First Boston, the broker, the moves are expected to boost annualised profits of Ladbrokes, down 5p at 318.5p. Stakis, 1 1/2p lower at 123 1/2p, London Clubs, up 10 1/2p at 175 1/2p, Capital Corporation, 1p firmer at 80 1/2p, and Rank Group, 8p off at 303p.

Verity Group rose 6 1/2p to 95p with dealers confident that a new batch of licensing agreements will be announced soon.

A profits warning left Thornton's 21p lower at 240 1/2p. The chocolate retailer said that higher warehousing and distribution costs and stock discounting had taken their toll of margins in the second half.

This week's "buy" recommendation from Dresdner Kleinwort Benson continued to fuel Lynx Group, the information and technology specialist, which responded with a rise of 8 1/2p to a peak of 250p.

The clouds have begun to gather over Le Riche Group, down 4 1/2p to 52 1/2p. Shareholders were told at the annual meeting that prospects for the all-important summer season in the Channel Islands looked bleaker than for some years.

Intermediate Capital fell 20p to 52 1/2p on talk of a possible downgrading by Cazenove.

GILT-EDGED: Prices recovered early losses encouraged by the British Chambers of Commerce survey. The best gains were recorded at the shorter end which had suffered earlier in the week on the back of the sharp rise in average earnings.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt touched £108.20 before rallying to close £102.12 up at £108.56 as a total of 66,000 contracts were completed. The short-dated future also put on £0.15 at £103.13 on meagre turnover of 32 contracts.

Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 was seven ticks down at £130 1/2, while in shorts treasury 7 per cent 2000 put on three ticks at £101 1/2.

NEW YORK: A rally in Eastern Kodak shares after sparkling quarterly earnings on Wednesday helped the Dow Jones industrial average to edge ahead in choppy morning trade. By midday the index was up 12.87 at 9,247.34.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 9247.34 (+12.87) S&P Composite 1172.50 (+1.01)

Tokyo: Nikkei average 16731.99 (+17.78)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 15984.57 (+130.39)

Amsterdam: 1282.23 (+10.28)

Sydney: 2810.6 (-36.71)

Frankfurt: DAX 6094.02 (+14.22)

Singapore: Straits 1073.97 (+17.98)

Brussels: General 2404.62 (+175.46)

Paris: CAC-40 4358.18 (+13.43)

Zurich: SMI Gen 1715.00 (+3.30)

London: FT 30 3952.9 (+18.0)

FTSE 100 4116.8 (-34.7)

FTSE 250 3667.1 (+4.6)

FTSE 350 3945.0 (+1.7)

FTSE Europe 100 3021.0 (+4.0)

FTSE All-Share 2861.7 (+12.4)

FTSE Non Financials 2862.9 (+13.0)

FTSE Financials 1434.9 (+5.6)

FTSE Govt Bonds 104.86 (+0.02)

Bargains 6505

ESAO Volume 1022.00

German Mark 2.9346 (+0.0023)

Exchange Index 104.6 (+0.3)

Bank of England official rate (per cent) 5.50

ESDRI 1.2317

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TEMPUS

A missed opportunity

CAUTION is the watchword at David S. Smith, the hard-hat packaging and paper group. Peter Williams, the chief executive, is led up to his back teeth with talk of sterling but its strength has held profits and until the leak is fixed recovery will be limited.

The management worked hard to limit the profit fall to 47 per cent. Overheads were cut by £35 million but even so operating margins crumpled from 8.8 per cent to a near low of 5.6 per cent. The return on capital halved to a meagre 7.5 per cent.

More hard work this year and recovery in the group's continental operations will lift profits to between £55 million and £60 million — £10 million less than previous forecasts. This leaves the shares on an unappealing multiple of 15 times earnings.

However, the share price is unlikely to fall

too much lower. The management is highly regarded, recovery on the Continent will eventually permeate the UK and bid prospects offer some icing on the cake.

The board chinked the £1 billion price tag was too risky for a group capitalised at £650 million. Mr Williams acknowledges that £650 million would have promoted Smith, currently number four, into a European leader in the corrugated board market in northern Europe.

Industry consolidation worldwide means that Smith itself could be a target if it does not act decisively. Smith's reluctance to play in the big league has increased the chances of this happening because it leaves the group with a less risky but less exciting strategy of mopping up the smaller players.

WH Smith

THE trouble with losing a lot of weight very quickly is that you can end up looking deflated and rather wrinkly. The crash diet WH Smith has been on this year has brought out a few wrinkles in its new distribution and US businesses, but has done a lot to improve the group's general appearance.

Richard Handover, who took over as chief executive last September, has managed to restructure the company remarkably quickly. Waterstones, Virgin, Our Price and The Wall have all gone. Opportunistically buying John Menzies' retail business was a smart move that has added bulk in the right place.

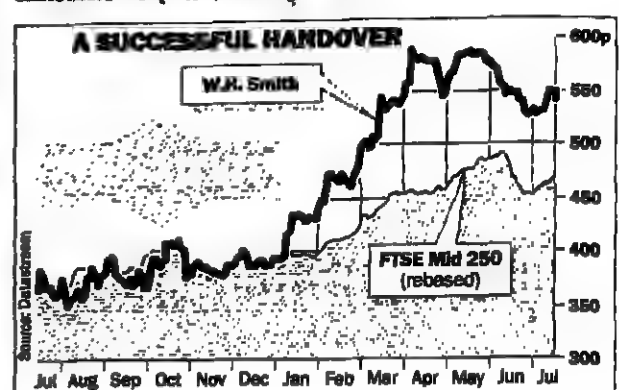
A lot of work still has to be done on the core WH Smith business. The ranges of magazines, books and stationery

are being improved and some shops refurbished. The company insists customers are more interested in better products than better stores, but that sounds like wishful thinking.

Retail champions such as Marks & Spencer and Boots are continually revamping and re-modelling their shops, and customers expect nothing

less from the other high street retailers. However, the scope for improvements offers potential for growth, even if they prove costly.

The shares trade on around 13.5 times forecast earnings for this year. The discount to the sector is deserved because the group still has much to prove. Hold.



Thorntons

FOR a sweetie seller, Roger Paffard is incredibly ambitious. In the past year, he added 134 new chocolate to Thornton's range of 260. He is spending £49 million — a third of group turnover — on factories that could cope with treble the output.

Small wonder, then, that he has now tripped up. The problem is quite simply that Thornton's is not yet big enough for his ambitions. Yesterday's hiccup demonstrates exactly this.

Withdrawing 15 lines of chocolate lines would have been far less expensive had he launched them next year, by which time bar-code scanners will have been installed to give an immediate warning when sweets are left on the shelf.

And if Thornton's £14 million warehouse was open, it would not have to pay through the nose for other companies to store its chocolate.

Underlying sales growth may have slowed, but it remains impressive. It bottomed at 5.4 per cent — a figure most retailers would kill for. Also, 119 new chocolate lines have succeeded against the 15 that had to be withdrawn — an impressive hit rate.

All told, Mr Paffard's strategy is exactly right — he has just got a little ahead of himself. In March next year, the new buildings will be working and he will be able to make as many new sweeties as he likes.

At 15 times forecast earnings, Thornton's shares are again at affordable levels. Buy.

Atlantic Telecom

IS ATLANTIC TELECOM the next COLT or the next Ionica? Again we have a small telecoms company with ambitions (and a market valuation) out of all proportion with its revenues.

The radio-based telephone

service that Atlantic runs in Glasgow invites comparisons with Ionica, though its shares have performed nowhere near as dismally. Now comes the great leap forward as Atlantic seeks to raise £10 million, including £60 million of borrowings, to expand into Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen.

Atlantic seems to be making good progress. It has connected 35,000 lines, 4,000 of them in the most recent quarter. But a £10 million expansion plan still looks vast for a company valued at barely £75 million and whose last annual sales were less than £1 million.

While it is encouraging to see that Atlantic has been able to price its share placing at yesterday's opening price of 150p, it remains highly speculative.

EDITED BY PAUL DURMAN

COMMODITIES

LIFEE

Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1048-1075	1048-1075	1048-1075	1048-1075	1048-1075	1048-1075
1048-1075	1048-1075	1048-1075	1048-1075	1048-1075	1048-1075
1048-1075	1048-1075	1048-1075	1048-1075	1048-1075	1048-1075
1048-1075	1048-1075	1048-1075	1048-1075	1048-1075	1048-1075
1048-1075	1048-1075	1048-1075	1048-1075	1048-1075	1048-1075

ROBUSTA COFFEE

Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1545-1536	1545-1536	1545-1536	1545-1536	1545-1536	1545-1536
1545-1536	1545-1536	1545-1536	1545-1536	1545-1536	1545-1536
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1545-1536	1545-1536	1545-1536	1545-1536	1545-1536	1545-1536

WHITE SUGAR

Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
284-291	284-291	284-291	284-291	284-291	284-291
284-291	284-291	284-291	284-291	284-291	284-291
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284-291	284-291	284-291	284-291	284-291	284-291

MEAT & LIVESTOCK

COMMISSION

Average forward prices at representative markets on July 15

(p/bw live)

1-2: -7.17 -8.30

3-4: -7.17 -8.30

5-6: -7.17 -8.30

7-8: -7.17 -8.30

Marching in step but to a different tune

There are those who fear something of a culture shock when Sir Clive Thompson takes over as President of the Confederation of British Industry next Tuesday. The post is traditionally held by an establishment-minded figure such as Sir Michael Angus, chairman of Whitbread, or Sir Bryan Nicholson, the former Post Office chief. When the political establishment changes, the CBI has been prepared to change with it, installing the Labour-friendly Sir Colin Marshall as President for the past two years.

Sir Clive is a tough different. He has forced himself into the business elite by transforming the distinctly unglamorous Rentokil pest control business into Britain's largest business services company. Sir Clive is a hero in the City, where his determination to raise profits by a fifth every year has earned him the nickname "Mr 20 per

cent". Yet equally there are those in the business elite who find him too brash and abrasive and can scarcely hide the fact that they are itching for him to take a fall.

It was Thatcherism that made a company such as Rentokil initial possible. This is not the kind of creative, knowledge-based, value-added, services company that Labour likes to laud as the future of the British economy. Rentokil has prospered because anti-union legislation and the absence of a minimum wage has made it possible to keep down the costs of employing a mass of cleaners and security guards. It has picked up a raft of contracts in the public sector through compulsory competitive tendering. And when the profits target has looked under threat, Sir Clive has been prepared to take on the kind of bruising takeover battle - most notably for BET Initial - that



ALASDAIR MURRAY

new Labour still feels distinctly uncomfortable about.

Sir Clive, not surprisingly, appears reluctant to bite the hand that has fed him. He is on record as a staunch opponent of the minimum wage, warning about its employment consequences. Unusually for a FTSE-100 company chief, who are normally too worried about accusations of "fat cat" status, he has freely admitted that "several" thousand of his 80,000 staff received less than the Government's recommended £3.60 an hour level.

It is his views on the unions, however, that have already brought him most directly into

conflict with the Government. Sir Clive used his first public appearance as the incoming President to launch an attack not just on the specifics of the Government's union recognition policy but on its whole philosophy. Sir Clive mined few words, equating unions with "pests" in a not very subtle reference to his own business. And in a phrase resplendent with Thatcherite ideology he emphasised that it was people as "individuals", not people as "collectively", who built great businesses. The ever cordial Mr Blair, who was sitting next to Sir Clive, smiled throughout the speech, but

John Edmonds, the TUC General Secretary who was nearby, looked less than amused.

This represents a marked departure from the tone of the CBI in the first year of the new Government. The organisation under Sir Colin has been positively chummy with the Government and, despite its opposition "in principle" to the minimum wage and union recognition, has been quite happy to put the idea of "partnership", which Sir Clive so vigorously dismissed, into practice by sitting on a plethora of business/union committees.

Sir Colin is now off to the House of Lords, but Alasdair Murray, the CBI's Director-General, is staying in place. There is a strong suspicion that relations between Sir Clive and the highly pragmatic Mr Murray may not be entirely comfortable. Expect to see a quick return of the rumours - always firmly denied -

Hull hangs up on a long-distance nuisance call

Those who live or try to do business in Hull must wince every time they hear the infamous line "from Hell, Hull and Halifax, may the Good Lord deliver us," taken from a 17th century vagabond's prayer. Laurence Zimmerman, the American businessman trying to buy one of the city's most valuable assets - its telephone company, Kingston Communications - must be reciting the passage in his sleep.

Mr Zimmerman, a telecoms entrepreneur who founded Nasdaq-listed National Wireless Holdings in the US, deserves credit for spotting the potential of Kingston, based in a city generally derided or ignored by most of Britain's population. Everything from the city's most famous poet - the celebrated misanthrope, Philip Larkin - to the smell of fish that allegedly wafts around its central shopping area, has become a source of popular humour for those who live outside East Yorkshire.

The smooth-talking American should probably try cracking some of these jokes to the leaders of Hull City Council, which controls Kingston, as they would undoubtedly get a warmer response than his £245 million bid for a 49 per cent slice of their telecoms company. His offer was made in response to the council's plans to raise funds for the company, possibly through a £400 million-plus stock market float.

Council leaders, advised by Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, have since made it clear that they want Kingston to remain controlled by the residents of Hull. They have refused to even meet Mr Zimmerman. In a blunt response to a telephone call from *The Times* yesterday, Patrick Doyle, the council leader, belatedly said: "This is a cowboy maverick bid, for a company that is not up for sale."

Mr Zimmerman has probably already realised that it would be unwise to underestimate the determination of a group of plain-talking Yorkshiremen. After all, it was Hull that gave us John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister. Mr Zimmerman has already

Council leaders refused to meet Mr Zimmerman

found himself at the centre of a bizarre "fishgate" scandal, in which he was alleged to have offered fish-and-chip suppers to members of the city council. They responded with a gruff warning that his invitation could be in breach of the Public Bodies Corrupt Practices Act 1889. Council researchers have also discovered that William Aylward, the former chief executive of Kingston, now works as a consultant for Mr Zimmerman, and that the American businessman was temporarily banned from being a stock broker during the 1980s in the US.

Hull council's critics argue that Kingston has become an anachronism, having escaped various industry consolidation programmes since its formation in 1902. It has enjoyed a position of splendid isolation, and almost complete monopoly, ever since. Its last financial results show profits of nearly £12 million on sales of £128 million. But times have changed in the world of telecoms, and Kingston has come under pressure to modernise. The Government is expected to open up the Hull market to competition from BT and Don Cruickshank, the former Director-General of OfTel, the telecoms watchdog, recently accused the company of denying its customers the benefits of the information age.

The future of Kingston now looks uncertain. It needs cash to expand its business-to-business Torch subsidiary, set-up as a joint venture with Yorkshire Electricity, and it has committed itself to launching a cutting-edge high-speed telecoms network. At present, Hull City Council's plans to raise money for expansion through the markets, yet keep the company municipally owned, look unrealistic. Mr Zimmerman's bid also looks far-fetched, but his presence in Hull will surely raise the issue of how Kingston has managed to escape competition for so long. It will be an interesting contest.

CHRIS AYRES

Names are still the best policy for the future of Lloyd's

Private money has a vital role in developing the insurance market, says Michael Deeney

Will the Lloyd's name disappear? Prominent agents at the London insurance market believe the name is on the way to extinction but there are compelling reasons why the fall in numbers will not lead to the complete domination of Lloyd's by corporate members.

It is not in the commercial interest of Lloyd's, nor the City of London, for the market to become an association of insurance companies. Innovation, the development of new insurance products and new approaches to risk management are vital to future success.

Innovation in insurance underwriting requires access to substantial capital. Unfortunately the bulk of insurance capital is held by large insurance companies, which tend to be bureaucratic and slow. The record of British composite insurers in international insurance has been inconsistent and marked by an inability to respond flexibly to new challenges.

Innovation in insurance requires access to venture capital. The capital structure at Lloyd's is the most sophisticated venture capital market in the world. Able young underwriters have the opportunity to develop markets and products with a commercial freedom and flexibility that is the envy of their equivalents in the company market.

It may be understandable that some underwriters and some managing agencies prefer to have some distant corporate parent who provides them with permanent capital. It may also be that those members of the current generation of underwriters who sell their agencies for large capital



Michael Deeney says Lloyd's has the world's most sophisticated venture capital market

sums will continue to perform as effectively as they have done in the past for a time. However, an entirely corporate Lloyd's will no longer offer the incentives to a future generation of underwriters.

A second reason why the Lloyd's name might not face extinction is the hitherto unrealised potential value of syndicate capacity. The world outside Lloyd's has not generally appreciated the significance of capacity value. Until recently, it cost no more for a name to underwrite on a well managed syndicate than to be on a mediocre one. Those names who had conscientious and well connected members agencies, made healthy profits all

through the years of heavy losses. The difficulty that new names faced in the past was that many of the best underwriters did not want their syndicates to expand too fast and it was impossible to obtain capacity on them.

One major recent reform was to create an auction system by which names and corporate entities could buy and sell capacity on syndicates. It is of course a new market and methods for calculating value are still evolving. The prices being paid to names who sell their capacity at Lloyd's is considerably less than the long-term commercial value. This view is clearly shared by the stock market and a number of

large insurance companies who have purchased Lloyd's agencies.

Some leading agencies have issued alarming reports to names warning them that current market conditions are dangerous and urging them to cease underwriting. It is a little curious then that these same agencies will be going into this allegedly dangerous insurance market at Lloyd's and purchasing capacity on syndicates this year. There is a conflict of interest between the legal duty of a managing agency to the names on the syndicates they manage and their duty to corporate shareholders that own the agency. Indeed, Robert Hiscox, who has urged

names to cease underwriting, while seeking to purchase capacity from them at the same time, has openly admitted the conflict of interest. Some names have suggested that there is a clear commercial incentive for underwriters who wish to purchase capacity on syndicates to point out the most negative aspects of continued underwriting. If many names withdraw from the market and sell their capacity this year, these agencies can buy capacity more cheaply. The regulatory authorities at Lloyd's have indicated that communications by agents to names are now being scrutinised carefully.

It is clear that most of the insurance markets in which Lloyd's plays a leading role are at the bottom of the underwriting cycle and that rates are very low. Although this development has been predicted for the past two years it has created a second wave of departing names to add to the wave who suffered heavy losses between 1988 and 1992.

The second wave continued underwriting and benefited from the large profits of 1993, 1994, and 1995. But they wish to retire and are unwilling to trade through the downturn or they believe that names are doomed to extinction.

These predictable departures have obscured the hard core of names who are determined to continue to underwrite. They have actually increased their investment in Lloyd's. It is a striking fact that only 18 per cent of names wrote more than £500,000 annually in 1990, but now 56 per cent write at this level.

The names who have made this decision to increase their commitment to Lloyd's clearly believe that the traumatic losses of the past have led to the survival of the fittest. Profit figures of recent years indicate the much higher professional standards of Lloyd's. Names have received cheques totalling an average of £140,000 over the past three years.

Another factor is that a significant number of names at Lloyd's are actually working members. They appreciate

that it is possible to purchase capacity on good syndicates at bargain prices and that the tax advantages of underwriting through the annual venture continue to be attractive.

The third reason names will not disappear is that it is legally impossible to abolish them. The best legal advice indicated that the 1982 Lloyd's Act prevents the Council from mandating the creation of a purely corporate Lloyd's.

What is equally important is that names have the ability to block any changes to Lloyd's rules and regulations against their interest.

Names have the constitutional right to call an extraordinary meeting which has the power to revoke any by-law passed by the council. The vital point is that the vote at such a special meeting is on the basis of one member, one vote. A corporate member of Lloyd's with capacity of £100 million has only a single vote at a special meeting, exactly the same as a name writing £1 million per annum. Some at Lloyd's would like the 1982 Lloyd's Act to be replaced by a new Act of Parliament.

It is hard to imagine the current Labour Government deciding to put its hand into such a hornet's nest on behalf of a handful of Bermuda insurance companies, in opposition to thousands of Names.

The author is chairman of the Association of Lloyd's Members.

Spell in jail

FRAUDSTERS would do well to master the three "Rs" before taking on the City, according to the latest annual report from the Serious Fraud Office. Police cracked a £2 million fraud against Chaps, the payments system, by picking up the repeated mis-spelling of "you're sincerely" in a series of forged letters of authorisation.

Even on their arrest after one of the fraud's five organisers failed to learn their lesson, continuing their fraud while on bail but shifting the focus to bank branches in Scotland.

A third hit on the brilliant idea of getting a taxi driver to deliver the letter of authorisation

to the bank and was arrested shortly afterwards. Their sentences ranged from three years' imprisonment to a £1,000 fine. Perhaps they should have paid more attention in the classroom.

I am delighted - all right, I am mildly pleased - to learn that Highland Distillers was successful in its bid for a rare 17th century history of Orkney being sold at Sotheby's. As reported earlier this week, the group plans to present the precious manuscript to the Orkney Library. While experts had thought the bidding might go up to £30,000, Highland only had to pay £9,200.

Motley crew

AND now I am extremely annoyed. Something called *The Motley Fool UK Investment Guide*, which claims to show punters how to beat the City experts, has quoted me as recommending the book to readers. "A genuine attempt to demystify," is what I am supposed to have said about the book's progenitor, an online investment club. What I actually said was that this was an attempt that failed, and was a far too sim-



plistic approach to investment analysis. The publicity people blame the authors. It really is outrageous, taking a few words out of context and twisting them to mean something completely different. They ought to leave that sort of thing to journalists.

Poor cousin

POOR Ian Rosenblatt, the City solicitor, has been inundated with calls after yesterday's story in *The Times* about Stephen Hinchliffe, the not-universally popular South Yorkshire businessman, whose sidekick is one Ian Rosenblatt. Not the same one. The Hinchliffe Rosenblatt is from Liverpool, and has a brother, David, who was behind a rather colourful Ofex

float called the Sandwich Bank and Crust Company, as well as a cousin, Michael, a director of Rosebys, the furniture retailer who recently had a bit of trouble with the trading standards authorities.

Ian Rosenblatt, the lawyer, is but a distant cousin of Ian Rosenblatt, the Hinchliffe sidekick. To make it yet more confusing, he also has retailing connections. His cousin Paul is chairman of UNO, another furniture company. Rosenblatt the lawyer would greatly appreciate it if calls for his namesake could desist.

MY CONGRATULATIONS to Christopher Pope, chairman of Eldridge Pope and a very amiable host, who has been elected Master of the Worshipful Company of Brewers. One catch, though. Eldridge Pope is no longer a brewer, having sold its Dorchester brewery 18 months ago. However, Pope has for some years been on track to become Master, a largely automatic process that it takes more than a little detail like this to derail.

Ram raid

STILL among the beerge, the annual meeting of Young's next week looks to be the most exciting since the management pulled the plug on the drunken debauches that used

to accompany such occasions by switching the venue from the brewery itself. Guinness Peat Group, which holds a 7 per cent stake, is trying to dismantle the antiquated share structure that keeps the 400-year-old Ram Brewery firmly under the control of the Young family.

GPG reckons Young's is a fuddy-duddy old brewer whose myriad of share classes prevent it from realising its full stock market potential. As a local, I must take issue. There are few enough small, independent breweries without having another one disappear. Anyway, the winds of change are already blowing through Young's, alas. The company is launching a trendy new bar concept, the lamentably named Ram Bar.

MARTIN WALLER



Tradition thrives at Young's

EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

THEATRE FOR JUST 30p

SEE metro TOMORROW FOR DETAILS
TOKEN COLLECT

CHANGING TIMES



INFORMATION SERVICE

هكذا من الأصل

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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Compiled by Deborah King

Theatre is booming. And it's broke

So British theatre — thumping success or dismal disaster? *All's Well That Ends Well* or *Hearbreak House*? The answer appears to be yes. At least, that is what this foggy old brain deduces from two new reports that paint disconcertingly different pictures of thespians.

Last week it was all gloom from the National Campaign for the Arts. In *Theatre in Crisis: The Plight of Regional Theatre* it waits that 33 regional theatres are in debt to a tune of £10 million; that ticket prices have doubled in a decade; and that the theatres are producing fewer plays, with smaller casts, than ever before.

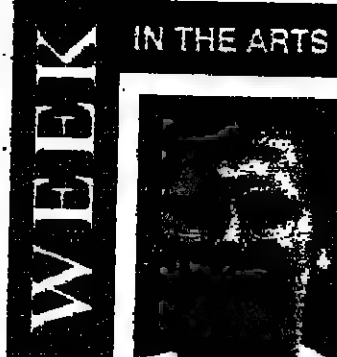
Even the debt-stricken Royal Shakespeare Company has cut its casts to the level at which "Cymbeline led a British army of three into battle against the Romans". Three? In most rep theatres a three-man army would seem a fantastical extravagance. Meanwhile, the National Theatre, £1.5 million in debt, is reduced to sending begging letters from the actress Fiona Shaw to its patrons. Grim tidings. But hold that

shroud! No sooner does one finish reading this prolonged sob-story than the doormat with a self-satisfied twinkle. What an astonishing document. It's a glossy economic survey of West End theatre, compiled for the Society of London Theatre by Tony Travers of the London School of Economics, but it reads more like a bulletin from some wartime propaganda unit. You know the sort of thing: "322 enemy aircraft shot down, and not a single British casualty!"

West End theatre is apparently a "billion-pound industry", supporting 41,000 jobs. It attracts nearly three times as many punters as all London's football clubs put together. Its most successful products — *Phantom* and *Cats* — have each earned far more worldwide than *Titanic*, the most profitable film in Hollywood history. West End theatre's trade surplus far outstrips that of the British film and

television industries combined... and so this rosy literary continues. Some of it is inspired hogwash, of course. West End theatre can only be counted as a "billion-pound industry", for instance, by assuming that theatre-goers will also spend a small fortune on transport, meals, booze and hotels. And yes, *Phantom* and *Cats* have been nice little earners, but that only begs the question of whether the West End has become dangerously over-dependent on whistling British mega-musicals that have largely had their day, especially with Disney now assailing that market with sleekly hyped film spin-offs.

Even so, the *Wyndham Report* is a startlingly upbeat portrait to offset the ghastly tales of dereliction told in *Theatre in Crisis*. The danger is that those who hate the notion of arts subsidy will leap on this stark contrast as evidence that theatre flourishes best when left



RICHARD MORRISON

entirely to commercial managers. But as *Wyndham* points out, the picture is much more complex. The West End depends on the subsidised sector to nurture new plays and future stars. In fact the regional reps are vital to this "billion-pound industry". Vital, in

short, to Britain's reputation for world-beating theatre.

So it is worrying to see so many disparate forces stacked against them. First, many local authorities are only grudgingly supportive or actively hostile. What is it about town councils that attracts the country's dreariest philistines? Secondly, regional theatres receive only sporadic press coverage. To some theatre critics a "trip up north" appears to mean a night at the King's Head, Islington.

And thirdly, regional theatre can't often attract big-name actors, and that's fatal in an age when people see stars on TV every night. The interest generated by Jude Kelly's coup — persuading Sir Ian McKellen to lead three classic plays at the West Yorkshire Playhouse this autumn — only emphasises how rarely theatrical giants work in the regions. However, the decline in the Arts

Council's subsidy must be considered the biggest threat. "But wait!" you cry. "Hasn't Chris Smith just won loads of extra lolly for culture? Surely some of that will be sprinkled on regional theatre."

Possibly, but the signs aren't good. On Tuesday (the very day that the Government announced its spending plans) the House of Lords debated regional theatres. Two speeches were ominous. The first came from Labour's very "on message" cultural tsar, Lord Putnam (that's Lord Putnam of Much-Slighted-by-the-Bee, as he is now known). He agreed that things can't go on as they are in regional theatres, but said that the future lay in "partnerships" with local authorities and the private sector. In other words, don't bank on Arts Council subsidy.

And his words were reinforced by the Government's spokesman, Lord McIntosh of Haringey, who tardily noted that the £20 million

which the Arts Council allocates to regional theatre is a "not insignificant" sum. Oh really? It is precisely what it costs to run one Formula One car for one season. But divided among 60 regional theatres, duckie, it ain't a lot.

I can't understand this reluctance to invest in regional theatre. The sums involved are paltry compared with the cost, say, of reopening certain opera houses. The benefits in widening access are enormous: many regional houses have been spectacularly successful at attracting young and ethnically diverse new audiences. And regional theatres frequently deliver top-class productions that win international acclaim.

All this would be at risk if regional theatres were devolved into the hands of local politicians and businessmen. To my surprise, I find myself siding with the whingeing luvvies. If the West End is the golden egg of British culture, then regional theatre is the goose. Kill it off and you might as well flog Shaftesbury Avenue to Disney tomorrow. No, no. Chancellor, I was only joking.

Simon Tait meets the man putting music back on the education agenda

The sweet sound of learning

There is a crucial element in arts management which we ignore at our peril, believes Gavin Henderson. He calls it the "Swift Factor", pretty much a primeval force which draws people to enjoy their culture in the company of others. It is why there will always be live audiences for great art (just as there are for great football); and it is why arts education is at least as much about what happens in the street as what happens in the classroom.

As Principal of Trinity College of Music and director of Dartington Summer School, but also as chairman of the Arts Council's music panel, erstwhile director of the Brighton Festival and now chairman of the new Youth Music Trust, Henderson is at the crux where "high" and "popular" art are supposed to meet. His new appointment to the Youth Music Trust could be a defining one in exploiting our musical resources for the benefit of the current learning generation, if he gets it right. But the sun has been shining on Henderson this year. He has received £30 million of lottery money for the Youth Music Trust; last week it was announced that Trinity was to move into the Royal Naval College, Greenwich; the 50th Dartington school is this Au-



Gavin Henderson: Youth Music Trust chairman

gust and it is expanding to six weeks and is to start a touring programme; the West Pier in Brighton, of which he is president, was recently saved with a £15 million lottery grant. He borrows his motto from Cocteau: "A little too much is just enough for me."

Last October he was digging potatoes in his own Brighton back garden and pondering what, as an Arts Council member, to do about music education. "I suddenly realised that I had no way of getting to David Blunkett, and I was leaning on my spade dwelling on the problem when who should walk into the next door garden but David

Blunkett." Henderson and the Education Secretary fell into earnest discussion. "I'm not going to tell you what he said, but it is how I know he is absolutely committed to music education," Henderson says.

What will the Youth Music Trust do to get music back into the classroom? The answer is, nothing directly because our responsibility is not inside the classroom. Our job will be to look at music learning outside schools and how to push it forward," he says.

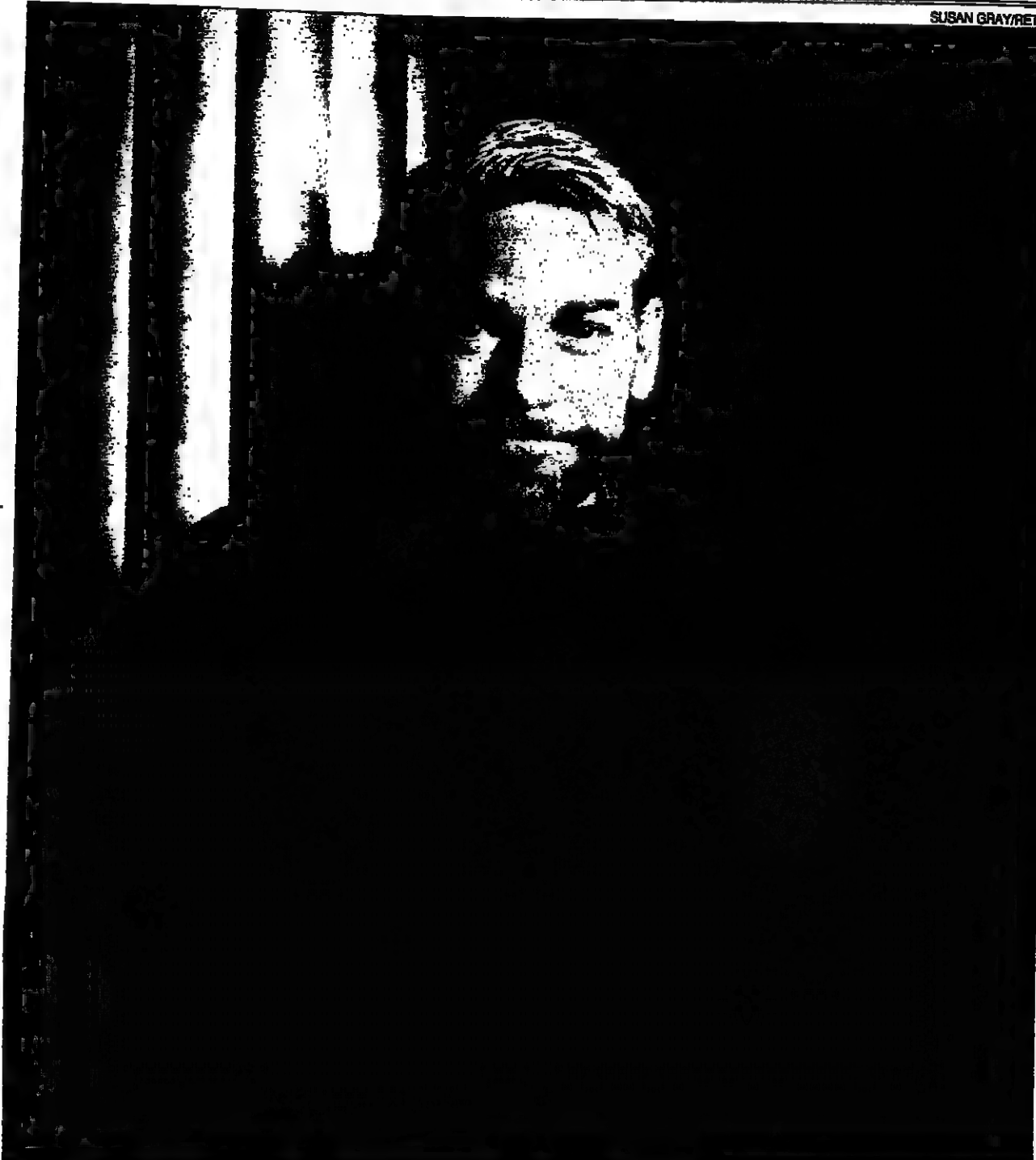
What we cannot do is let the education department off the hook, but I am convinced of Blunkett's commitment and that we will be hearing something from him very soon. Like everyone else, I was worried by music apparently being removed from primary education as a compulsory part of the national curriculum in January, but I think we have seen that the effects of that have been overemphasised."

The YMT is to get £10 million of lottery money a year for three years to support and develop music teaching. Although it was the Arts Council chairman, Gerry Robinson, who personally took the decision to allocate the money, the trust will operate separately and Henderson has relinquished his Arts Council membership accordingly.

Other trustees include Elton John, Simon Rattle, Mick Hucknall, Lesley Garrett and Richard Stilgoe, names chosen for their supposed credibility with the young from all backgrounds, but there is no chief executive yet, no staff, no address. When it is up and running, though, it will be the clearing house for extra-curriculum music teaching resources, encouraging innovation in instrument and choral teaching, and raising money.

The picture nationally is uneven," Henderson says. "There are some terrific things being done in some places while there is practically nothing happening in others. We will be a balancing agency, and an important part of what we do will be leverage. But the money is paltry — we will need nearer £100 million a year than £10 million."

By the time the Youth Music Trust is in full swing, Henderson's attention will be distracted by the enormous task of shifting Trinity and 560 students from Marylebone to the oldest quarter of the Greenwich complex, the King Charles Building. The move has to be completed by the summer of 2001. "We need to get students involved in the community, and the opportunities in Greenwich are enormous."



Kenneth Branagh hopes to win commercial credibility with *The Gingerbread Man*, opening in Britain next week

Staking a claim in the Wild West

Robert Altman calls Kenneth Branagh "the best actor I've ever worked with", which is some compliment given the coterie of fine American thespians the maverick film-maker has directed. Branagh has evidently heard this before, to judge by the unsurprised tone of his response: "Well, that's very nice of him but he loves actors you know. He sort of has crushes on his actors."

Altman is high on Branagh's performance as a Savannah lawyer in *The Gingerbread Man*, the first John Grisham film which is based on a book — it's an original Grisham screenplay. The film is Branagh's attempt to heighten his commercial viability in Hollywood. And to judge by the morning TV show he appeared on just hours before sitting down to talk at a Los Angeles hotel, Branagh's American recognition factor is not terribly buoyant. *The View* is morning TV for American housewives, hosted by women with names like Star who introduced their guest as "Kenneth Brannach". Branagh neither flinched nor corrected them.

"You're so rabbit in the headlights about the whole thing," he laughs. "You've got a wire up your arse and there's just this tremendous pressure to be relaxed and funny. Anyway, I thought they were very nice girls." Promotion is the price he has to pay to make himself known.

Branagh won't quite admit to "going Hollywood", only that "a little more identification with things that seem a little more obviously commercial is probably no bad thing

Like or loathe it, Kenneth Branagh just can't stay away from Hollywood.

Lesley O'Toole found out why

for someone like me." It is not that Branagh wants to be a Hollywood movie star, rather that broadening his appeal to American audiences might facilitate that all-important financing of the less overtly commercial projects he really wants to make.

Having enjoyed the ingenious plotting of previous Grisham film adaptations, Branagh was very interested but wanted a film replete with rather more than the conventional Grisham elements: courtrooms and fancy lawyers. He chose to wait until a director was hired, hopefully one who would shake it up. So when Altman signed on, so did Branagh. The really difficult part of doing the mainstream thing well, he says, is finding something that operates in a genre which has some intelligence or wit and is satisfying, but doesn't feel as if it has formula or franchise written all over it.

While Altman was shaking up the Grisham cocktail, Branagh set about perfecting what is on film an impeccable Southern accent. Speaking the dialogue was challenging enough; improvising proved more troubling. "You've got to watch it with kids and animals, of course, but Christ, I had them both in the same

scene. And then Bob said, 'Okay, Branagh, as you walk down with the kids, just say stuff. But say good stuff, OK? Can you imagine!'"

The Gingerbread Man was shot in Savannah, Georgia, rather than Hollywood, where Branagh says he has spent very little time. When he did make a film in Hollywood, *Dead Again*, he didn't like the change the place effected in him. "I knew it was time to leave when I was reading the Hollywood trade papers every day and kind of back to front. I had become a kind of encyclopedia about what was going on. It was like a drug."

After filming *The Gingerbread Man*, Branagh completed "The Woody Allen Fall Project", and clearly captivated a second iconic American director since "only Judy Davis and me got the whole script". Branagh was unaware that Allen is famous for giving actors only their scenes, never a whole script — "I had no idea it was a big deal." The film, now titled *Celebrity*, was "never less than a fascinating experience" and "a big starry do" featuring the likes of Winona Ryder and Leonardo DiCaprio. "They would say things like, 'Well, what does my character do? You know, where have I come from and

does anybody say anything else about me in scenes that I'm not in?'" In fact, *Celebrity* may do more for Branagh's Hollywood profile, since it will be DiCaprio's first film to be released since *Titanic*.

Branagh harbours no great desire to return to the stage. And, he admits, he would rather "stay in bed all day" the day after a bad movie review than "have to stand up in front of a bunch of live people the day after a savage theatre review."

He is hoping not to spend too much time in bed after the reviews for his next film, *The Theory of Flight*, although they were to be less than favourable, he would at least be sharing them with his co-star and girlfriend, Helena Bonham Carter. Though he insists that the "celebrity couple thing" is not his "cup of tea", Branagh is excited about the film, despite its peculiar subject-matter: it's about a common who dreams of building an aeroplane and a motor-neurose disease sufferer who wants to lose her virginity before she dies. Branagh describes it as a story of "this rather uneasy friendship which resolves itself in a very funny and touching way".

Since he spoke, Branagh has been cast in as high-profile as a Hollywood film as it is possible to grace — opposite Will Smith, Kevin Kline and Salma Hayek in *Wild Wild West*. Already being talked of as one of 1999's blockbusters, the film entails gigantic, hugely expensive sets and a mammoth five-month shoot in Branagh's own idea of the Wild West — Hollywood.

● *The Gingerbread Man* opens in Britain on July 24

EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

POP OPINION

Cobain misrepresented

Courtney is entitled to be furious

Nick Broomfield's documentary about grunge's ill-fated first couple is a despicable travesty of the truth

Arrogant! The cinema in Islington is playing *Kurt and Courtney*. Nick Broomfield's "documentary" on grunge's Richard and Judy. Six people mill around outside: you can tell they have come from their shoes. The fella in the Hush Puppies is here because it's a Broomfield film. He will have seen *Held Fleiss: Hollywood Madam* and Broomfield's fabulous winding up of Eugene Terre'Blanche in *The Leader, His Driver and The Driver's Wife*. He won't really know who Courtney Love is, but he will have heard of "The Nirvana".

The other five are girls: in battered pink and white shoes with diamonds on the sides; or little bows; or sequins. These girls are here because the film is about Kurt and Courtney. They are Nirvana and Hole fans. They have no idea who Broomfield is. It's because of curious grunge aficionados like this that *Kurt and Courtney* is Broomfield's biggest film by a long chalk: UK and US cinema release, and one of



CAITLIN MORAN

Channel 4's most high-profile programmes this autumn.

However, to lure in those from without the grunge/Broomfield fan axis, *Kurt and Courtney*'s posters are alight with inevitable hyperbole. Instead of one snappy self-line (à la *Home Alone*: "A Boy. In A Home. Alone"; or *Titanic*: "Do You Want Ice With That?") *Kurt and Courtney* has two. The first is "Truth Is Stronger Than Fiction". The second is "The Film Courtney Doesn't Want You To See!!!"

Both of which — although it's endlessly sad even to bother with the deconstruction of a

cheap poster — are a waste of ink: the first is wrong and the second is plain stupid. There is no "truth" revealed in *Kurt and Courtney*. The majority of Broomfield's interviewees are liars, drug-addicts and fantasists. Although Broomfield acknowledges this to be the case with several of them, his lack of knowledge about rock music allows several others to slip through his net.

One of Kurt's "oldest friends", for instance, who testifies against Courtney, shows photographs of Cobain she took six months before his death, to prove how close she was. Unfortunately, the pictures are quite clearly shots taken by a *Melody Maker* photographer and used on the cover of its Christmas issue.

Broomfield's conclusion about the murder theories are also, almost wilfully, perverse: after an hour of indulging various smackheads' ramblings, Broomfield feebly declares that he doesn't believe Cobain was murdered at all; but was "driven to murder himself".

Hmmmm. Well, for anyone who's done more than listen to *Smells Like Teen Spirit* when it comes on Virgin 1215FM's *Loud Hour*, it was obvious Cobain didn't need driving anywhere. He was the most foreseeable suicide since Ian Curtis. One of the first songs he ever wrote was called *Suicide*. He was a paranoid junkie with a big collec-



Kurt Cobain (performing in 1993) and Courtney Love: they fought like cat and dog, but were genuinely committed to each other in their own odd way



tion of guns, who posed for publicity photos with a gun in his mouth, who had already attempted suicide three months before, and who wanted to call his last album *I Hate Myself And I Want To Die*.

He called his band Nirvana because, to him, it meant "total peace after death". Anyone reading either the Christopher Sandford or Michael Azzerad books about Nirvana, which, unlike Broomfield's film, contain interviews from

family, friends, band members and insiders — will be left in little doubt that Love actually kept Cobain alive longer than he expected to be.

And as for "The Film Courtney Doesn't Want You To See!!!" — well, that's rather like selling jam with a sicker reading "The Jar of Jam Courtney doesn't want you to smear all over her carapace!!". Of course Courtney doesn't want you to see the film: half a dozen liars and her estranged,

publicity-hungry father claim she murdered her clearly suicidal husband.

The tragedy of *Kurt and Courtney* is that it markets itself as a fearless expose of the heart of darkness at the core of the rock world, etc etc etc; but Broomfield doesn't come up with — and excuse me for using a technical term here — the slightest bit of evidence. A disturbing misogyny also runs through the film. Evidence of Love's haridan ways, for in-

stance, rests on her threatening of journalists. A tape of Love screaming at a female journalist is broadcast with a "told you so" air; and later, when Broomfield berates the American Council For Civil Liberties for their "hypocrisy" in lauding Love, it is on the basis of these tapes. However, Broomfield never addresses the small problem that Cobain is equally vocal in these tapes: it is Cobain who threatens to "throw out a bit of money and

have you [the journalist] snuffed out".

The truth is that both Love and Cobain had dysfunctional childhoods, bonded over drugs, fought like cat and dog, but were committed to each other in their own odd way. Perhaps the best critique of *Kurt and Courtney* comes from Cobain himself. "I don't think anyone over 31 will ever be able to understand me," he said in 1994. At 50, Broomfield never had a chance.

LIVE GIGS: One girl and her magic fiddle; Africa's international superstar; and blues fans dancing in the aisles

The reel thing, folks

Not content with reinvigorating the centuries-old tradition of British folk music, Eliza Carthy is almost single-handedly attempting to modernise the genre and take it into the next millennium as well.

Hence the virtuoso fiddler's recent album *Red Rice* is a two-pronged affair. One CD features faithfully rendered jigs, reels and traditional songs, while the other is an experimental cross-breed of English folk tunes with dub, jazz and even drum'n'bass grooves. Carthy respects the past too much to let it stagnate.

Similarly this was a gig of two halves, which despite the differences in approach were both equally engaging. For the first, Carthy was accompanied by the accomplished accordion player Saul Rose, while after the interval they were joined by a three-piece band whose electric guitar, bass and drums giving the pendulum towards something approaching folk-rock.

And yet no glib categorisation could do justice to the fresh, energising sound these musicians make together



when in full flight. Carthy is the undisputed star of the show however, whirling around the stage in joyous communion with her instrument, which she plays with passion and precision.

Her stage manner is warm and unpretentious, which is all the more laudable when one considers that her parents,

Martin Carthy and Norma Waterson, are bona fide folk legends in their own right.

This concert was her first in Dublin as a solo artist and served as a preamble to the sundry summer folk festivals throughout the UK. Although the attendance was disappointing — no more than a hundred or so — the sheer enthusiasm and charisma of Carthy and her band remained undimmed.

Swedish and French-Canadian reels were interspersed with some of her own, such as *Kingston Girls*, while a cover of Ben Harper's despairing *cri de coeur*, *Walk Away*, showcased Carthy as a singer of considerable emotional depth.

But the highlight of the evening had to be her version of an old mournful ballad irresistibly titled *The Americans Have Stolen My True Love Away* and, during the encore, an unaccompanied rendition of the epic narrative, *The Banks of Claudy*, which seemed to cast an almost otherworldly spell over the rapt audience.

NICK KELLY

Shades of big brothers

It would be easy to dismiss the whole *Blues Brothers* phenomenon as a hype-up commercial venture which has little to do with the state of modern blues. But that would be a misjudgment. True, this concert was very much of a nostalgia kick. But at least half the audience were not born when these songs were first recorded, and to have them presented by the men who created them in the first place — guitarist and composer Steve Cropper, bass player Duck Dunn and songwriter and vocalist Eddie Floyd, along with a most unrecognisable as the fresh-faced youngster seen in those early pictures of Booker T and the MGs.

But that didn't stop them laying down what have become classic guitar and bass lines for such soul standards as *Soul Man*, *Land of 1000 Dances* and *Soulfinger*. Guest vocalist Floyd relived his greatest Stax moments too with *Raise Your Hand*, *Big Bird* and an extended version of his greatest hit, *Knock On Wood*.



Blues Brothers

ance in the *Blues Brothers* 2000 movie.

He also had the advantage, of course, of a backing band to die for. Cropper, whose pivotal role in the Stax studios in Memphis in the Sixties is at last being acknowledged, looked a little less sleek than he did when he backed Otis Redding, while Dunn was almost unrecognisable as the fresh-faced youngster seen in those early pictures of Booker T and the MGs.

If the audience recognised that they were being given a master class in the history of soul music, they were too busy enjoying themselves to notice. As soon as the band launched into the anthemic *Swamp Home Chicago* it was out of the seats, on with the shades and into the aisles with a vengeance. There was always a danger, too, that Marti Guitars Murphy might have been overlooked in the general Memphis melée. But he was given a chance to shine with a powerful version of the B.B. King hit *The Thrill Is Gone*. After that was more bopping, ending, as it had to, with a stageful of *Blues Brothers* clones and the band pumping out *Everybody Needs Somebody*.

Earlier, Roomful of Blues gave an object lesson in how to tackle modern blues with a traditional swing and verve, with big-voiced vocalist McKinley Odom bouncing around a wall of sound created by this tight eight-piece band.

JOHN CLARKE

Show of strength



ly different approach for a European audience. With a troupe of a dozen musicians and four dancers this was showtime. A thunderous percussive introduction greeted Maal's arrival, resplendent in traditional robes as he launched into the explosive *Mbolo*, the bass, guitar, keyboards and horns of Western rock complemented by African talking drums and the kora. They danced on stage and

they danced in the aisles until he took the tempo down briefly with *Koni*, a children's lullaby learnt at his grandmother's knee, and the gentle *Cherie* from the new album. Then it was back to the dance grooves with *Souka Nayo*, on which Maal's troupe was joined by the haunting voices of Sinead O'Connor's backing singers.

Earlier the veteran Ernest Ranglin had played a spell-binding set of jazzy grooves. The legendary Jamaican guitarist who practically invented reggae recently travelled to Senegal to explore his African roots and to record his new album, *In Search Of The Lost Riddim*. His jazz trio was joined on stage by members of Maal's band as together they embarked on a thrilling voyage down the musical trade routes of the African diaspora, which set the tone perfectly for Maal's triumph.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

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£50,000-99,999	3.05	3.09
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£2,000-9,999	4.70	4.78
£1-1,999	4.70	4.78

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£2,000-9,999	4.15	4.22
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POP ALBUMS
Quirky Sparklehorse

Treasures well worth uncovering

SPARKLEHORSE
Good Morning Spider
(Parlophone 7243 4 96014
£15.99)

ONE of those intriguing groups that tend to surface during the quiet season for releases, Sparklehorse from Virginia have a knack of making things more difficult for themselves than is strictly necessary. If they were to stick to the conventional instrumentation and production techniques that are good enough for most country-rock acts (think Neil Young) or even heavy rock groups, then numbers such as the up-tempo *Pig*, the sad *Painbirds* or the swaggering *Sick of Goodbyes* would sound like the wonderful tunes that they are.

But part of *Good Morning Spider's* distinctive appeal is that mainman Mark Linkous elects to bury his songs in a morass of lo-fi, garage-yard effects (think Tom Waits), while frequently abandoning his high, parched quiver of a voice to a place in the mix that only really makes sense when the album is listened to through headphones in the dead of night.

With the cello playing of Sofia Mitchellisianos lending a further, mournful dimension throughout, this is an artful collection of awkward but affecting gems.

KAREN RAMIREZ
Distant Dreams
(Manifesto/Mercury 558 674
£12.49)

SHE owes her current Top Ten chart status to her seductive version of an old Everything But the Girl song, *Looking For Love*. But Karen Ramirez has plenty of new ideas of her own to offer.

Born in London, brought up in Trinidad and now resident back in Croydon, the 27-year-old singer travelled to Italy to write and record *Distant Dreams*, her first album, in collaboration with a dance collective known as Souled Out. The result is a gorgeous collection of songs propelled by a variety of rhythmic impulses ranging from the breezy almost-samba of *Trou-*

NEW POP ALBUMS

bled Girl to the vibrant drum'n'bass hustle of *New Reality*. At the heart of the matter is a voice which effortlessly conjures a cool combination of soul and jazz-noir inflections in a way that has not been heard in the pop charts since Sade hung up her bolero.

On *If We Try*, Ramirez harnesses a "pa-da-da" chorus worthy of Astrud Gilberto to an absolutely spot-on loop of trip hop beats to create an effect that is both eerie and sexy, rather like Morcheeba with an added dash of Latin. On the contrastingly upbeat *Lies*, she applies touches of Indian-sounding instruments and harmonies to a strutting techno off-beat.

Only one question remains. What does a woman so finely attuned to the bustling cosmopolitan pulse of the modern world make of Croydon?

4 HERO

Two Pages
(Talkin' Loud/Mercury 558 462; two discs £15.99)

NURTURED by the same record label which this time last year brought us Roni Size and Reprazent, 4 Hero is one of many aliases adopted by the pair of drum'n'bass producers Dego and Mark Mac from West London.

The two discs, subtitled *Page One* and *Page Two*, explore the two extremes of what is, arguably, the most exciting new music form to have emerged in the 1990s. *Page One* is a rich, harmonically developed cocktail of neo-jazz fusion, featuring horns, strings and various guest vocalists including American singer/poet Ursula Rucker. The key to its appeal, however, is the outstandingly inventive performances by Andy Hamill

(double bass) and Luke Parkhouse (drums), who use the inhumanly fast rhythmic contortions of drum'n'bass (devised, of course, on drum machines) as the template for some sensationally dextrous and original passages on *Loveless* and *Planetaria*.

Page Two is a return to more familiar hardcore electronic drum'n'bass routines, a patchwork of ominous rumblings, skittering beats and sudden rude explosions of noise which, although good of its kind, rather detracts from the innovative impact and more sophisticated appeal of *Page One*.

TRANSISTER

Transister
(Virgin 7243 8 45065 £13.99)

HAVING spent a career in the foothills of pop with Scottish band Danny Wilson and then as a solo act, Gary Clark has developed a pretty keen weather eye for spotting trends. His latest group, Transister, a trio which includes his old chum Eric Presley (formerly of King-L) and introduces American singer Keely Hawkes, have correctly identified the guitars-and-samples with a strong-but-mysterious female voice formula as a smart direction to take in '98.

Unfortunately, their otherwise promising self-titled debut has been resoundingly beaten to the punch by Garbage's second album, and sounds rather lacking in originality as a result.

That said, *Transister* does boast some clever tunes with provocative lyrics and watertight choruses, none more so than the recent single, *Dizzy Moon*. "Dug myself a hole again/Lost my self-control again," Hawkes sings with icy, Shirley Manson-esque menace. But is there room for both of them down there?

DAVID SINCLAIR

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 (1) Hello Neasty...Beastie Boys (Grand Royal)
- 2 (2) Talk on Corners...Corn (Atlantic)
- 3 (3) Postcards From Heaven/Lighthouse Family (Wild Card)
- 4 (7) The Good Will Out...Embrace (Hut)
- 5 (4) Life Thru a Lens...Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
- 6 (-) Jane McDonald...Jane McDonald (Focus Music Int)
- 7 (9) Urban Hymns...Verve (Hut)
- 8 (6) Blue...Simply Red (East West)
- 9 (8) International Velvet...Catalonia (Bianco y Negro)
- 10 (10) Left of the Middle...Natalie Imbruglia (RCA)

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Figure in brackets denotes last week's position

ARTS



Is it a man or a group? Meet Mark Linkous, the highly acceptable face of Sparklehorse

POP INTERVIEW
Eagle-Eye focused

One part bird and the rest pure star

He came from Sweden to conquer the world. Now Eagle-Eye Cherry is talking to Nigel Williamson

What price Stockholm as the new musical Mecca? Once Sweden was famous only as the home of Abba and au pairs, but now it seems that every major label is promoting a Swedish signing. The Cardigans and the Wannadies, the teen pop of Robyn, Kent, Komeda, Lisa Ekdahl and Ebba Forsberg have all made international breakthroughs, or have albums that are on the point of doing so. And the coolest — and set to be the biggest — of them all is Eagle-Eye Cherry.

Born in Sweden, Cherry moved to Brooklyn when he was 12, but returned to the land of his birth two years ago to launch his musical career. The result has been dramatic. His delectable single *Save Tonight*, with its infectious hook, driving guitar and seductive vocal, has been a hit all over Europe, while his album *Desireless* is receiving rave reviews for its crafted songs and mellow soundscapes.

The brother of Neneh Cherry and son of the late jazz composer Don Cherry, the 27-year-old singer-songwriter had a clear vision when choosing to make Sweden his base. "Stockholm is a small environment, but the artists there make the records they want and the record companies don't tell them what to do," he says. "I also like their professionalism; the musicians turn up on time and they are focused and not as stoned as they are in New York. On this record I worked from ten to six. I like to go home and cook dinner and have a little time off. I need a routine."

Critical acclaim has already compared Cherry to Ben Harper and Finley Quaye and musically all three share a felicitous ability to fuse melody and rhythm. But Cherry is very much his own man: "My father taught me the importance of finding your own voice," he says.

His unusual name has also

helped to mark him out. "My Dad was on tour when I was born. He came home and I opened one eye and looked at him and he called me Eagle-Eye. There were moments when I wanted to be Sven or something, but I am surprised I didn't get more hassle. But I was always different. In Sweden I was the only coloured kid in the class. In America I was the only Swedish country boy in Brooklyn."



Eagle-Eye Cherry: crazy name, burgeoning talent

Yet his father, who played with everyone from Ornette Coleman to Sonny Rollins, bequeathed him more than an unusual name. "He taught me not to settle for less. You can see when you read people's lyrics that they have a really good verse and chorus and then two half-arsed verses. I'm not satisfied with that. I try to find a way of telling a story and then tie it up at the end."

A former actor, Cherry's greatest thrill remains being on stage. "Without knowing that I was going to play these songs live I don't know if I could do it. Neneh made two records without touring and I don't know how she did it. For me playing live is the pay-off for everything." European festival appearances this summer will be followed by a British tour in the autumn.

Desireless is released by Polydor

Bouncy best of British

NEWTON/TRACEY BAND

Booting Eric (ASC CD23)
SPECIALLY commissioned by Wakefield Jazz Club to celebrate its tenth anniversary, this suite, written by pianist Dave Newton and drummer Clark Tracey, receives a rousingly informal yet musically workout on this live album, recorded at the club last April.

Packing all the ensemble punch of a big band, but flexible enough to accommodate the plethora of soloing talent available — reads players Alan Barnes, Iain Dixon and Don Weller, trumpeter Guy Barker and trombonist Mark Nightingale — the octet moves easily and naturally between an almost Mingusian

JAZZ ALBUMS

robustness, epitomised by Weller's wonderfully bleary tenor, and an elegant gracefulness exemplified by Barnes's agile clarinet and Newton's lambent piano.

With Tracey at the top of his considerable form, the recording underlines the importance of the work documenting UK jazz currently being undertaken by labels such as the Macclesfield-based ASC.

NICHOLAS PAYTON

Payton's Place (Verve 557 327-2)
NEW ORLEANS trumpeter Nicholas Payton has been regarded as something of a traditionalist, but on this, his third album as leader, he has consciously attempted to capture his sparky young band's thoroughly contemporary, fleet, bright live sound, allowing them "just to come into the studio and do whatever felt right".

Fellow trumpeters Wynton Marsalis and Roy Hargrove jostle enjoyably with Payton on some selections, but for the most part the album sounds like a club set, with Payton's band caught in particularly hard-swinging but relaxed mood.

CHRIS PARKER

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media times

A most unusual tabloid

Helen Rumbelow
on two editors
who crackle

Most of what you need to know about the editors of *Tabloid* is in how they met: digging for dirt at a Michael Jackson concert in Prague. This tells you about their nose for outrage, their sense of the absurd, their obsession with bizarre animals, but not that their paper is an unusual experiment in modern journalism.

Tabloid is a newspaper on the Internet that revels in its contrariness. It is a tabloid — the genre usually notorious for being ignorant or hostile to a world beyond its backyard — that is filled with foreign news. It is a tabloid — traditionally aimed at those with an attention span seconds lower than a Page 3 Girl's bust size — but it advertises itself for "intelligent people".

It is a tabloid in homage to the chutzpah of its British equivalents, which has onwards of 100,000 American readers and causes intense interest among American media watchers. And it is a tabloid that uses technology to move beyond the tabloids of the present and in so doing harks back to the old-fashioned values of tabloids past.

"It takes a while for readers to figure out what we are," says Ken Layne, one of its two editors. "We are not about Hollywood stars or miracle diets or celebrity chasers. But when they do get it, our mix of world news, loudmouth columnists and strong graphic design, they are hooked."

At 32, Layne who describes himself as a "scholar and a Christian" from New Orleans arrived at *Tabloid* after reporting stints in various odd corners of Eastern Europe, including a "strange year" as owner of Macedonia's only country and western radio station. He returned to America with "deep scars in his heart" and became disillusioned with the papers that wouldn't give him a job.

Instead, with a colleague from that fateful night with Wacko Jacko, he founded his own paper in



Charles Hornberger and Ken Layne write columns that crackle and spit with righteous indignation from their cramped office

April last year, publishing on the Internet due to lack of lack of funds. "American newspapers have managed to push away a huge news readership with bland academic reporting," says Charles Hornberger, Layne's co-editor. "But British news, and the metro daily papers we used to have in US cities, understand that the job of telling news shouldn't prevent you from being entertaining." The most striking success of *Tabloid* is in showing that foreign stories can be front-page news in a popular market. On a typical day, four of the five main news stories will be about international events. Granted, some fall into the purely comic genre along the lines of "two-

headed dog gets a divorce", but most tell gripping stories that also explain complex foreign situations. "Let them eat nothing!" screamed one headline about the new poverty in Indonesia; "More Taleban madness" was another. "Thugs gun down the ice-cream man" took a serious look at the IRA.

That this is pulled together with a motley crew of correspondents they have never met, most moonlighting from their day jobs (including a bridal magazine) all over the world, highlights just how much regular tabloids, even broadsheets, overlook foreign affairs. As Hornberger says, in the hands of the right storyteller world news isn't worthy, it's compulsive reading.

Their moral vigour is also interesting. At 27, Hornberger is younger but nonetheless cynical. "Probably raised wrong," he admits. From their cramped office in San Francisco's seedier district, the two smoke and drink late into the night as they write columns that crackle and spit with righteous indignation.

The paper is produced according to three major principles: "Lies and bores must be punished, headlines must be extremely large, and the voice of outrage is the enemy of evil," claims a mission statement.

This is why they hold the British press in such regard. *The Economist*, for example, says Hornberger, is not afraid to have strong opinions because it knows it is right.

The tabloids also have the courage of their convictions.

"British news is hugely entertaining. They say exactly what they mean to say. Here, you get a milk-toast response to everything. I find that a shame."

This is their final strangeness: journalists who see the world in moral blacks and whites while remaining disaffected as individuals. But of course this is the most enduring of truths about reporters — the more cynical they seem, the more idealistic they are. It is what has always kept the best ones going, and despite the wired technology they use, the *Tabloid* editors model themselves on charismatic, rebellious newspapermen of old.

A new thought for the day

Orthodox Jews are celebrating the end of a perceived bias. Jason Nissé reports

RADIO 4'S *Thought for the Day* lasts only a couple of minutes at a time when most people are wolfing down their last cup of coffee. But yesterday Gerald Kaufman, MP, was joining leading figures in the Jewish community to toast victory in a four-year campaign to have an Orthodox rabbi included on the programme's regular panel.

Later this year, the strong Scottish tones of Y.Y. Rubenstein, a Manchester minister and Jewish chaplain to the city's students, will begin regular appearances on what is regarded as Britain's best-loved religious broadcasting spot.

The absence of Orthodox rabbis first came up four years ago when Jonathan Ordman, a cantor from Manchester, wondered why the flamboyant Lionel Blue, a member of the Reform movement, was the only rabbi to appear regularly on *Thought for the Day*.

It was not that members of the Orthodox community did not appear. Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi, is invited on twice a year, usually to mark the Jewish New Year and Passover. Two other Orthodox Jews are regulars — Penny Faust, who is president of the (rather small) Oxford Jewish community, and Clive Lawton, whose rather ambiguous position among Orthodox Jews is revealed by the fact that Radio 4 describes him as a marketing consultant. It is just that many in the Jewish community believed that the BBC had a bias against Orthodoxy and that that was why the corporation was keeping its rabbis off the programme.

Ordman took his complaint to his MP, Gerald Kaufman, who raised it with John Birt, the BBC's Director-General. Birt replied on July 6, 1994, to say that Ernest Rea, the BBC's head of religious broadcasting, "accepts there is a disparity

and he is making attempts to redress the balance".

Indeed Rea did make some attempts — albeit slowly. In May 1996 he contacted Ordman, asking for a list of possible candidates. In his letter he said: "It is true that, apart from the Chief Rabbi, whose contributions are inevitably infrequent, there is no Orthodox rabbi on our list." Ominously, however, Rea concluded: "I am sure you also understand that we may well decide that some of your suggestions do not come up to scratch."

And that was just what happened. Ordman provided Rea with six names. These included Ordman himself, Rubenstein, who regularly



Rabbi Blue

appears on *Prayer for the Day* on Radio 4 and *Pause for Thought* on Radio 2, and Ian Goodhart, a rabbi from Leeds. Rea passed the list to Stephen Shipley, producer of *Thought for the Day*, who said none of the suggested candidates was suitable.

The process of collating the list, and rejecting all the candidates, took about two years. Last month Ordman lost patience and went back to Kaufman, who fired off two letters to Birt. Kaufman told *The Times* that it was an issue on which he would continue to press until something was done.

Only a couple of weeks ago Rea showed no sign of budging, but somebody, somewhere, has persuaded him to change his mind. The result is that Birt wrote to Kaufman this week saying that he was pleased to report that Y.Y. Rubenstein would be joining the panel on *Thought for the Day* and would be making his first appearance in the coming months.

This sudden change of tack couldn't be anything to do with trying to get the BBC licence fee increased, could it?

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هكذا من الأصل

Bold Sir John rides on to the battlefield again

Sir John Birt's office at Broadcasting House has always held artefacts from the history of broadcasting, such as framed, ancient copies of the *Radio Times* and a 1951 Murphy radio. But now a new artefact dominates everything — an enormous digital widescreen television set with all the electronics integrated, on loan from Sony.

The sets are due to go on sale in the autumn but Sir John, the recently knighted BBC Director-General and a football fan, has been able to watch the BBC coverage of the World Cup in digital widescreen format — and he liked what he saw.

"BBC football has been really classy, whether you are talking about the panel, the commentary or the studio in Paris. You see the level of our craft skills and we are frankly beating all opposition in every department. It was a great treat for us and a great treat for the nation."

He adds, with obvious satisfaction, that a peak of 17 million people watched the BBC coverage of the World Cup final, compared with seven million on ITV. Such coverage, and the new digital channels that the BBC will start launching this autumn, culminating in a Learning Channel in the spring, will be part of the arguments to be deployed in Sir John's last great battle as Director-General — trying to persuade the Government to increase the licence fee in real terms.

"Strategic negotiations need to reach agreement with the Government on a vision for the BBC's role in the digital age," Sir John says. "This is a new Government and it is inevitable that they will want to debate the BBC's role. They will want a proper debate about how the BBC should be funded over the long term."

As he speaks, on the big screen with the sound turned down Tony Blair is doing his stuff at Prime Minister's Questions, and later David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, is setting out Labour's plans for increased spending.

"The target is to move to a world where we have modest, incremental real growth in the licence fee. That is what a lot of public services have, and we have to win that argument," Sir John says, looking both more owlish and more self-confident as the end of his controversial reign at the BBC comes into sight. The former London

The past ten years have seen the BBC forced through a painful decade of transformation. But the Director-General's fight is not over yet. **Raymond Snoddy reports**

Weekend Television executive plans to leave the BBC at the end of his present contract on March 31, 2000, after 13 years at the top. But first there is the licence fee appeal, which will be based on a detailed account of how the BBC believes digital technology will progress and what services the corporation can offer.

Broadcasting is already changing faster than most people realise, according to Sir John. "I go home late at night and watch the *Nine o'Clock News* on the Internet. I watch it in America, in Australia and at home in Wandsworth on my computer," says the man who has driven the BBC into committing £1 billion in licence-fee money over five years to taking itself into all things digital.

The pictures on his Internet television set arrive at the jerky rate of two or three frames a second. But the sound is improving and, as telecommunications improve across the world, the quality of the pictures will improve. "You are not going to watch *Titanic* on it but you will be able to watch meaningful news and information," says Sir John, who claims that over the next 15 years or so, audiences will move away from linear networks and towards more personalised services aimed at "communities of interest" within the overall audience. "If you are a sports enthusiast, it would be a mixture of five sports, comedy and sports information. You would also be able to access the BBC archive," he says.

He sees no alternative to the licence fee to provide the annual £2 billion and more needed to sustain "the most innovative national production base" which, in the coming year, will offer David Attenborough's *The Life of Birds*, Andrew Graham-Dixon's new series *Renaissance*, the virtual reality *Walking With Dinosaurs* and new productions of Thackeray's *Vanity Fair* and Dickens's *David Copperfield*. "I cannot foresee a time when the British will want a world without *The Archers* and *Blue Peter*," is how Sir John puts it.

Nonetheless, he will have a difficult time persuading the Government that more real increases are needed when, at the same time, the BBC is promising that over the present five-year licence fee settlement period, which runs out in 2002, it can make savings of £1 billion. The previous Government agreed a deal that tied the licence fee to retail prices but, to help to pay for digital, gave the BBC a large boost this year — 3 per cent above inflation, which pushed the licence fee up by £5 to £97.50. The £100 licence fee will almost certainly come next year.

Sir John will try to persuade the Government to introduce a new five-year settlement from April 1, 2000 — the first Birtless day in the modern BBC. The task of replacing him will begin next spring and is due to be completed by the autumn. Sir John says that Sir Christopher Bland, the BBC Chairman, intends to advertise the post and to have an open process like that used to choose the present deputy chairman.

The Director-General emphatically denies conspiring against the appointment of the film producer Lord Puttnam. The plan is that the chosen person will work in tandem with Sir John as deputy director-general in a "managed transition". Sir John has been sacked and sometimes hated for everything from the introduction of an internal market at the BBC to redundancies, excessive use of consultants and his unrelenting love of structure, strategy and plans. His legacy, he says, is that the BBC has been modernised and transformed in terms of value for money. "It was not an efficient or-

ganisation. It is now. We are also an organisation which is much more outward-looking. The BBC that I joined didn't look out of the window. It was utterly obsessed with itself and with its own ethic," says Sir John, who thinks there were 30,000 people at the corporation when he arrived but says that no one knew for sure because the data was not collected. There are now 22,000 staff. He doubts whether the "rude shock" of having to cope with the end, in 1985, of two decades of real licence fee growth and to cut jobs and costs could have been handled more gently. "It would have been nice to think we could have done all those really difficult things and carried everyone with us in perfect happiness and harmony," he says. "Theoretically we could have done better, but it was always going to be a difficult process in a creative organisation."

But is £1 billion over five years too much to pay for new digital television services such as News 24 and BBC Choice, designed to augment BBC1 and BBC2, not to mention an array of online services?

"Any new venture like this is strategic," Sir John says. "It is saying that we are heading into a world which, at some point in the future, will be all digital, just as people in the 1930s might have seen that one day everyone would have a television set." He adds that according to the BBC's best guess, 35 per cent of the population will have digital services in some form by 2002.

"If we find after a couple of years that the take-up is much slower than we thought, we will review our plans," he adds. But that will be a task for the next Director-General. As for Sir John, who will be 55 by the time of his intended retirement, the BBC will be his last big post. In the new century he plans to look for a variety of things to do, including writing an autobiography. Will he be looking for more money to try to catch up with his former colleagues at LWT, who are all now multimillionaires? "Don't put money — words — in my mouth," says Sir John (salary package £387,000, amid gales of laughter).

"I will never be able to catch them up. That's the decision I made when I was 50. This is the world's most wonderful cultural institution and it has been the most important thing that has happened to me in my whole life. But even the best things have to end."



Sir John Birt outside Broadcasting House. He is unrepentant about the new regime he introduced at the corporation

Phillip Knightley reports on an old art's revival

One summer night in 1995 in London, Chuck Lewis, an American journalist who looks like Clark Kent, outlined to me what seemed a woolly dream — he wanted to form an international team of investigative journalists to tackle the world's really big stories.

Three years later the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) is a reality. It has offices in Washington, a two-year start-up budget of \$400,000 (£220,000) with more promised, and 24 members from all over the world. At an inaugural conference at Harvard University this November it will present the first ICIJ award of \$20,000 for outstanding international investigative reporting.

Over dinner that night in 1995, Lewis and I agreed that investigative journalism in Britain and the United States appeared to be on its last legs. Lewis said this was one reason he had left the television programme *60 Minutes*, where he had been a producer.

"I felt that the press had arrived late on the scene in a spate of scandals, such as Iran-Contra and the savings-and-loan business," I told him that it was much the same in Britain. I believed that the great days of *Insight*, *The Sunday Times* investigative team in the 1960s and 1970s of which I had been a member, were unlikely to return.

Stories such as those on thalidomide, which deformed 8,000 babies; Phibby, the British spy who worked for the KGB; the investigation into the safety of DC10 aircraft after the Turkish Airlines crash in France; and an examination of the tax avoidance schemes of the Vestys, one of Britain's richest families, would today be considered too costly and legally dangerous.

Journalism with teeth



Accountants may have put paid to great investigative journalism

We agreed that, in the wake of the technological revolution in newspaper production, the power structure had changed — accountants had taken over. Suddenly journalists had to show that they were cost-effective — how many column inches did you write this week?

In this atmosphere, I said, it would be a brave executive who would dare tell management: "I would like to detach five or six journalists for an investigation into William Bigbucks. I'll take about six months. They'll need a large travel budget, and Bigbucks is certain to sue, so we'd better set aside a few hundred thousand for legal costs. If we get it wrong and lose a libel action, it could cost another million or so. Oh, and we mightn't come up with anything worth publishing."

Yet, unlikely as it seemed in 1995, this is roughly what Harold Evans's *Sunday Times* faced when

it began an investigation into the late Robert Maxwell's empire.

So I would have written off Chuck Lewis's dream as just that if he had not already set up the first stage of such a project. In 1990 he left *60 Minutes* and, in a Washington office, started the Centre for Public Integrity, a non-profit, non-partisan organisation devoted to public service journalism. As he explains: "I tried to imagine the ideal set-up, a group of investigative journalists, relatively unfettered by time or space limitations, taking one or two years to explore and expose national issues of the day."

Today the centre has more than 100 paid employees and has usurped the role of newspapers and television in the United States as the font of investigative journalism. The tale of the White House providing bed-and-breakfast for campaign contributors, the expo-

sure of the monied interests behind the campaign to defeat Clinton's universal healthcare plan, and *The Buying of the President*, the seminal study of the special interests behind the presidential candidates of the 1990s, were all the work of the Centre for Public Integrity.

Yet the centre is not by any traditional definition a news organisation. It has a budget of about \$1.5 million a year, largely provided by charitable foundations. It does its investigations with a few reporters and researchers and a large number of journalism students working for pocket-money. It tackles only two or three investigations a year, and hands over its report to grateful newspapers and television stations for little or no cost. Its influence grows steadily.

Lewis wants the ICIJ to be the centre's international arm, to take over the ground being vacated by news organisations as they close their overseas bureaux and reduce foreign coverage.

"How can we write about international arms and drug trades, political corruption or environmental degradation without information on these subjects from different parts of the world?" Lewis says.

The ICIJ's advisory committee, composed of one representative each from North America, Latin America, Europe, Africa and Asia, will guide its choice of subjects to be investigated. "The list of possible topics is endless," says the ICIJ.

It is early days yet, but this November in Harvard may mark — just in time — the rebirth of investigative journalism.

● The closing date for nominations for the International Investigative Reporting award is August 15. The ICIJ Internet address is <http://www.icij.org> and its telephone number from Britain is 00-1202 783 3900. Phillip Knightley is the European representative on the ICIJ advisory committee.

New role for Dacre

VISCOUNT Rothermere has moved to fill the vacuum at the top of Associated Newspapers after the death of Sir David English. Paul Dacre is to take over Sir David's old mantle as Editor-in-Chief in editorial charge of the *Daily Mail*, *The Mail on Sunday* and the *Evening Standard*. Dacre will continue to edit the *Daily Mail*. His appointment is unlikely to still gossip about the fate of Jonathan Holborow, *The Mail on Sunday* Editor, who has had a couple of rocky months.



all it is cracked up to be.

DEREK DRAPER, who started a new column in *The Daily Telegraph* yesterday, turned up at the *New Statesman's* summer party this week. A colleague of mine met him in the lavatory and asked how he was coping with his fall from favour. Draper replied tartly: "It takes more than that to get me down." Indeed, the media that broke him will probably be his salvation. I hear he is thought to have a good radio voice and was proposed last year by Planet 24 as the presenter for Talk Radio's breakfast show.

● THE most surprising fact I've learnt this week is that pirate radio is booming again. A group of pluggers, rave scene operators and "anoraks" refuse to be shut down and the Radio Authority's efforts to spread new licences far and wide has not eased the pressure. Bob Geldof says his company, Planet 24, spends its time trawling the pirates in a hunt for new talent — "they're fizzing" — in contrast to the dreary chat and pop that has cast a pall over the legitimate sector, more busy trying to interest people in digital radio than in thinking creatively.

● THE annual Radio Festival held in Birmingham this week even dedicated its first ever session to pirates — though only one. Mad Ash, showed his face. Mike Botham of the Radio Communications Agency says that it raids about 200 pirates in the Midlands alone each year, and that 800 to 900 stations are broadcasting at any one time. He has no time for the view of pirates as Robin Hoods: they interfere with air traffic control, tamper with communal TV aerials and steal electricity. But it can be only a matter of time before TV's documentary-makers move in. And Mad Ash? He's switching to the Internet. "It's everything I ever wanted."

● THE huge audiences for World Cup football on the BBC and ITV run counter to the grain of new media wisdom, which says we will all be fragmented into magazine-style niche channels. And did you notice that despite all the talk about converging PCs and television sets, live matches were not available to office workers, even those chained to computers capable of taking television pictures? The BBC's sports experts say there was never any question of live online or Internet rights to the matches being sold. Nor will simultaneous Internet coverage be available for the Olympics in 2000, or other big sporting events. They say rights owners intend to preserve the value of a mass-market television event. So the rush to converge and to open up a third force in broadcasting may not be

mer party this week. A colleague of mine met him in the lavatory and asked how he was coping with his fall from favour. Draper replied tartly: "It takes more than that to get me down." Indeed, the media that broke him will probably be his salvation. I hear he is thought to have a good radio voice and was proposed last year by Planet 24 as the presenter for Talk Radio's breakfast show.

● IT'S hard to convey the odd atmosphere in which the BBC decided to present its annual report this week. By pretending to ape a public company meeting before shareholders, Sir Christopher Bland, the Chairman, was revisiting the 1980s, when the then Director-General, Michael Checkland, shocked everyone by saying as soon as he was appointed that he was running a business. The Checkland approach spawned the excruciating *See For Yourself* annual TV programmes in which first Esther Rantzen then Sue Lawley attempted to field questions to the then Chairman, Marmaduke Hussey. Let's hope that Jill Dando, the current favourite presenter trundled out for all corporate events, is spared that chore. It's always downhill afterwards.

media times

Net news packs a punch

MSNBC's success has confounded the sceptics. Raymond Snoddy reports

Two years ago, when Microsoft and NBC launched their Internet joint venture MSNBC, linked with a national cable news channel, it seemed a futuristic venture. Would viewers switch to the Internet to get more details on their computer screens? The cynics also had a field day when Flight 747 800 went down off Long Island a week after the launch of the dual news service, testing its resources to the limit.

Brian Williams, the anchor of the MSNBC cable channel, which specialises in big breaking stories, was reduced initially to holding an atlas to the cameras to show viewers just where the aircraft had gone down. But, says Merrill Brown, the Editor-in-Chief of the Internet service, there was soon an Internet producer on site linking into the coverage of the local NBC affiliate and breaking news on the run.

"When TWA 800 went down we were very fast but also very careful," says Brown, a former Washington Post journalist who also edited Channels, a magazine specialising in the new media. Two years on MSNBC attracts some 4.2 million users a month.

"I think we have the best news site in the world. We put more video on our site than

anyone else and create more original content. Based on the current ratings service, Media Metrix, we have beaten CNN in 15 of the past 22 months."

He points to results from an independent survey conducted for MSNBC which found that nearly 20 per cent of the American Internet population was using the medium daily, just 2 per cent behind broadcast TV. And a recent study by the Pew Research Centre shows that 36 million Americans obtain news from that source at least once a week, up from 11 million two years ago.

Over the past two years, Brown says, MSNBC has developed "a different mode of storytelling", which brings stories down to local level and personalises them. If, say, an NBC correspondent does a report on dangerous seafood for *Dailine*, NBC's nightly magazine programme, MSNBC will build Web content around it, specifying where seafood is safest, where the risks are greatest. And thousands have "chatted" online with such statesmen as President Yeltsin of Russia and Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister. MSNBC begins assembling its news by dedicating a producer to each of the main NBC shows whose task is then to develop content extending the story. MSNBC now has its own



Net gains: "I think we have the best news site in the world," says Merrill Brown

correspondent in London. Preston Mendenhall, working with the NBC bureau team. Apart from providing greater depth of information, plus a chance to see clips from the NBC nightly news on demand, MSNBC journalists pick up their own exclusives.

The next challenge is to learn how to use Windows 98 to deliver MSNBC Cable to

the PC screen while simultaneously accessing the Web service. "We have to learn how to do it on one platform; people are going to get TV on the Internet and vice versa. It's happening quicker than people think," says Brown. Already the MSNBC Internet service employs 200 people and costs \$25 million (£15 million) a year to run. At the moment the ser-

vice, which is funded almost entirely by advertising, is on schedule to break even in 2001. Success will depend on MSNBC.com at least holding its current 5 per cent share as the on-line market expands. So far forecasts of Internet advertising revenue have been met. From \$500 million in 1996 analysts are predicting growth to \$4 billion a year in 2001/02.

Wanted: madmen in front of the mikes

When radio folk meet in congress extraordinary things start to happen. Perhaps the most memorable sight at this week's Radio Academy Festival was a dishevelled Bob Geldof, straight from a delayed Richard Branson train, denouncing the industry for filling the airwaves with "deracinated halfwit DJs" and calling instead for iconoclasts, madmen, thinkers and talkers to be put before the microphones.

The audience cheered Geldof's tumbling stream of words, even though it must have contained a fair selection of those responsible for the deracinated halfwits and who might be a touch wary of having too many iconoclasts on the payroll. But they loved his notion of radio as the purist, most elemental and creative of mediums and scarcely raised an eyebrow when Geldof gave a telling example of a bit of creativity unleashed by his production company, Planet 24.

He regaled his audience with a story about a series on ambient sound broadcast after midnight by Radio 3, and how *Rainfall*, billed in the *Radio Times* as a recording of a downpour in a Malaysian rainforest, was made. Setting a creative example to the entire radio industry, he revealed that the recording was actually of a bathroom shower in Tufnell Park, North London.

But for the former Boomtown Rat, the radio can be a source of more than music, words or even shower recordings. He has found it a great comfort during moments of crisis: on one such occasion, he got through the night in his London squat — after he finally stopped banging his head on a nail in the wall because it had felt "deliciously icy" — by eating some dope and listening to "primal static" on an old transistor. Geldof then suggested that what was needed was a return to piracy, which — while undoubtedly creative — would, strictly speaking, be illegal.

The audience was entranced, for it knew instinctively that finding new talent — and keeping it from defecting to television — is becoming an increasingly serious problem. Richard Park, the programme director at Capital, the largest commercial radio company, used his *Times* Lecture, which opened the festival, to announce a talent initiative to bring young people into the company at all

levels and offer proper training. He also called for more consolidation in the industry, so that Capital could expand further, and suggested that in the big markets one company should be able to own three FM and two AM stations, which would also enable Capital to grow.

Park explained, too, why his company had decided not to be part of any consortiums bidding for national digital radio frequencies: he wanted the BBC to forge ahead and create a digital radio market. "We can then all come and join you. That's the Utopian position," he said.

But at the dinner after the lecture the worry was again that radio's talent base was being stretched too thinly by rapid expansion and that young people might become too hooked on the Internet to spend time listening to conventional radio.

Tony Stoller, the chief executive of the Radio Authority, the industry regulator, pulled another rabbit out of the hat by announcing that, in future, many dozens of universities, colleges and hospitals would be able to grant low-power AM radio licences on a long-term basis. In an astonishing lurch towards openness, the authority is even going to start explaining why a particular candidate has been chosen for a licence — something long sought by the losers.

To cap it all, Ralph Bernard, the chief executive of GWR and the man responsible for pushing Classic FM's regular audience above five million, would like to see the creation of two new tiers of radio. One would be devoted regional radio, with control exercised in the region rather than from London. More radically, he wants to encourage the spread of community — either in terms of geography or of interest — radio stations. Initially, Bernard suggested, such stations could be subsidised by existing local radio stations making a cash bid for their licences.

New tiers of radio could certainly help to solve a looming talent crisis. It is not clear, however, whether they would allow any more iconoclasts, madmen, thinkers and talkers to make it before the microphone. Still, there is no shortage of elemental hiss around for free.



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Tabloids show real signs of a slump

MORE questions than answers are posed by the sales figures for the 19 national daily and Sunday newspapers for the first six months of 1998 — which have already seen the resignation (aka the sackings) of eight editors.

The most serious question is addressed to the red-top tabloids: how are they going to arrest the now dramatic and continuing slump in circulation. Over the first six months of 1998, average sales on weekdays were down by 300,000, and on Sundays by more than 550,000, compared with the first six months of 1997.

The paper that is apparently losing least and, in a good month like June, gaining most is *The Mirror*, which has shifted upmarket, and is putting a greater emphasis on decent reads. Over the first six months this year, its average sale was up by 22,400 (1 per cent) against 4,300 (0.12 per cent) for *The Sun* and year-on-year last month it was up by 36,600 against a drop of 87,700 for *The Sun*.

That suggests a slightly more serious approach is working. Its rivals, however, say that *The Mirror's* circulation figures are inflated by regional price-cutting drives,



vouchers and giveaways — the June Audit Bureau of Circulations figures show that *The Mirror* had 502,000 sales at a lesser rate compared with 437,000 for *The Sun*. So is the "serious" *Mirror* really working?

If David Yelland, the new Editor of *The Sun*, is tempted to follow his main rival (which he shows no signs of doing) the experience of his biggest sensation so far — the front page asking if Tony Blair was the most dangerous man in Britain — suggests that *The Sun* does best when it sticks to what it does best: sport, entertainment, gossip, showbiz and the royals, and should persuade him otherwise. *Sun* sales fell on the day Yelland dumped on Blair, though the sensation it created certainly announced his arrival and put a new stamp on the paper. Perhaps *The Mirror* can get away (just and occasionally) with political leads but not *The Sun*.

There is no denying, however, that the middle-market tabloids and the broadsheets are performing better than the red tops, which suggests that

newspaper readers are shifting towards more aspirational newspapers that don't talk down to them. Year-on-year in June, the *Daily Mail* was

up by 150,000 (7 per cent), the *Financial Times* by 35,000 (11 per cent) and *The Times* by 34,000 (4.6 per cent). On Sundays the only newspapers with higher sales were *The Sunday Times* and *The Mail on Sunday*. Year-on-year for the first six months of 1998, the daily broadsheets were down by only 12,000.

With the early stages of the World Cup, June was a much better month than most for all the newspapers, with only *The Daily Telegraph*, *Express* and *Star* failing to increase sales over May and the new pricing of *The Times* effecting an average daily increase of 16,000 copies. *The Independent* showed its third, small, successive monthly increase.

Yet coverage of the World Cup staged in France did not deliver quite the spectacular increases achieved when the Euro 96 tournament was staged in England. It was defeat at the feet of Argentina, when most circulation managers decided not to send out extra copies, that delivered the greatest boost to sales, with *The Sun* up by 200,000 on the previous week, *The Mirror* by 150,000 and the *Daily Mail* by nearly 100,000. Against the expectations of the circulation managers, readers obviously wanted to read the newspaper inquests on David Beckham, Glenn Hoddle and penalty shoot-outs. Increases of 10,000-20,000 were scored by most of the broadsheets for the England matches.

All editors are on trial every day but the annual autumn offensive when readers have returned from their holidays is going to be a big test for the eight new editors and promises some fascinating battles. At *The Sun*, Yelland, who celebrated his first month with a sales increase of 50,000, has to reverse the downward sales trend: it is now 15 months since *The Sun* sold 4 million. Now that their managements have given them more money to spend, Rosie Boycott at *The Express* and Simon Kellner at *The Independent* need to show results.

At *The Observer*, the Editor, Will Hutton, and his deputy, Jocelyn Targett, need to show both that they can work together and that they can define what sort of radical newspaper *The Observer* should be at 403,000 its sale is at a 50-year low. And can *The Times* inch ever closer to *The Daily Telegraph*? Year-on-year over the past six months, *The Times* was up by 40,000 against a drop of 50,800 for the *Telegraph*.



We are the champions: thousands of French fans celebrate their World Cup victory on the Champs Elysées — but sales of some soccer magazines dipped

Who's celebrating now?

One of France's leading soccer magazines is relieved that the World Cup is over. Susan Bell reports

Understandable when you know that *France Football* is the victim of a remarkable paradox. While one might have expected sales to rise during the World Cup, this has not been the case.

"Surprisingly, big, highly organised events like the World Cup can be very damaging to magazines like *France Football*. These sort of events are more adapted to daily newspapers," he says.

Created in 1947 by Jacques Goddet, the former director of the sports daily *L'Equipe*, who bought the title from the French Football Federation, *France Football* quickly be-

came a respected weekly, achieving its reputation by creating in the mid 1950s the European Clubs' Cup and the Golden Ball trophy, awarded each year to the best player.

Last year the magazine, which appears each Tuesday, sold 215,000 copies a week. In March 1997, a second issue was introduced on Fridays to cover midweek news. Mostly black and white, it is printed on cheaper paper than its glossy, full-colour Tuesday sister magazine and sells for only Fr5 (83p) as opposed to Fr20.

The successful decision to make *France Football* semi-weekly was to preempt a direct

competitor. Unfortunately, it is not possible to keep the competition at bay during such an enormous event as the World Cup.

"Media which usually bother very little with our market take a huge interest in football during the World Cup. Every radio and TV station devotes hours to games and newspapers produce special editions. Our readers become satiated by the daily media and have less need for a weekly magazine," Ernauld says.

In his experience, sales figures are strong before the World Cup kicks off, but diminish once the competition

begins and readers start getting their football fix from the daily print and electronic media. The good news is that once the final is over, old readers return, hopefully bringing new ones who have caught the football bug.

Ernauld is a cautious man, but even he predicts that after France's win, the future for his publication looks bright. A phenomenon has occurred and perhaps we can surf on it. We did not profit immediately, but maybe in the medium or long term...

Meanwhile, this week *France Football* produced its biggest ever edition, a print run of 670,000 — more than three times larger than usual. He chuckles: "I think we can safely say that that will be an all-time record."

FLEET STREET'S HALF YEAR REPORT					
DAILY TITLES					
POPULAR	Average daily sale	Compared to May '98	Compared to June '97	% +/-	Market share
The Sun	3,701,446	50,268	87,722	-2.32	28.73
Daily Mirror	2,340,080	48,340	56,674	-1.59	18.16
Daily Star	574,086	-187	-72,862	-11.26	4.46
Middle					
Daily Express	1,133,356	-8,181	-97,974	-7.2	8.80
Daily Mail	2,312,168	45,456	150,792	6.95	17.95
Quality					
THE TIMES	789,742	18,899	34,028	4.63	5.97
D Telegraph	1,056,678	-3,638	-23,840	-2.19	8.28
Guardian	400,008	4,465	4,579	-2.34	3.10
Independent	224,559	4,880	-31,528	-12.24	1.74
Fin Times	361,779	4,092	-38,103	-10.75	2.81
Market total	12,772,180	75,223	4,300	-2.99	
GRAND TOTAL	12,772,180	75,223	4,300	-2.99	
SUNDAY TITLES					
POPULAR	Average daily sale	Compared to May '98	Compared to June '97	% +/-	Market share
Mail on Sunday	4,185,320	-40,477	-168,480	-3.84	28.45
The People	1,716,506	-18,264	-183,578	-9.06	12.14
Sunday Mirror	1,970,899	-82,241	-263,287	-11.39	13.93
Sunday Sport	282,791	18,531	-29,447	-10.43	1.78
Middle					
Sunday Express	1,033,341	-36,116	-101,005	-8.81	7.3
Mail on Sunday	2,192,294	952	92,226	4.39	15.5
Quality					
SUNDAY TIMES	1,320,286	-19,986	21,896	1.68	9.33
Observer	403,300	1,322	-36,746	-8.97	2.85
Sun Telegraph	853,878	7,581	-20,078	-2.35	5.90
Sun Independent	268,684	592	-18,368	-6.02	1.81
Market total	12,153,107	-10,457	-308,768	-2.53	
GRAND TOTAL	12,153,107	-10,457	-308,768	-2.53	

Ford's multimillion shift

FORD, for years the largest client to have all its billings in one agency, Ogilvy & Mather, has moved some \$150 million (£92 million) pan-European business to Young & Rubicam.

Nobody can have been entirely surprised. Only last week Ford awarded Y&R the launch of the Focus, the successor to the Escort, and Ford's most significant European launch in years. This marked the fourth consecutive pitch in which Y&R had beaten off the once impregnable O&M (after Galaxy, Puma and Cougar).

Y&R has been trying to become the lead agency on Ford for almost two decades. More than 15 years ago it hired John Banks, then known as Mr Ford at O&M, with the express aim of snaffling the Ford account. The move came to nothing. But Y&R, which has significant Ford business in the United States, persevered. It was finally given a chance with the launch of the Galaxy people-carrier four years ago, and hasn't looked back.

Its creative work on Galaxy and, particularly, the launch of the Puma last year with the help of a remarkable commercial starring the late Steve McQueen in a pastiche of *Bullitt* forced O&M to raise what had been a pretty mediocre standard. It responded with a series of far quirkier and more interesting commercials for the likes of the Ka, the Mondeo and even the unfortunately named and short-lived Probe. The Escort, Fiesta and dealers campaigns were all very good.

But O&M knew it was susceptible to international realignment because it had itself won business (most notably IBM and AmEx) by the same means. There is, of course, more to it than that. While it is a great coup for Y&R, Ford is the kind of business that takes some losing. It does not move agencies lightly, and will have given O&M every chance to retain the account. The last



straw may well have been the appalling Ka ad, in which the car is compared to football boots — this is way out in front in the contest to find *The Times's* worst commercial of 1998.

Inevitably, there is speculation of redundancies and high-profile sackings at O&M. It is too soon for such thoughts, but it does look likely that some such measures will be required — particularly as the disastrous loss of so much Ford business follows so soon after the departure of Guinness to Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO.

Martin Sorrell, the chief executive of O&M's parent company, WPP, will be furious at recent developments. You can be sure he will already have begun a campaign to win the business back. Meanwhile, Y&R's next campaigns are



Young & Rubicam's *Bullitt* pastiche

believed to be corks. This battle will run and run.

WHILE the gang under Maurice at M & C Saatchi continues to enjoy a charmed life, things at the old Saatchi & Saatchi agency have been getting tougher. Having emerged from the M & C Saatchi debacle pretty well — considering it lost the likes of BA, Mars, Dixons and Gallaher — Saatchi's managed to hold its ground in the top five UK agencies and nurture its crucial Procter & Gamble (P&G) relationship.

While it has proved capable of scaling the heights with excellent work for the likes of nursing and army recruitment, it has largely lost the uniqueness wrapped up in the personalities of the people who departed.

Now, however, three of its top five clients — Visa, Schweppes and Camelot — are reviewing and the worldwide chief executive, Kevin Roberts, is to take personal charge in London. The chairman, Alan Bishop, is moving to an international new business role.

It's another example of people believing their own press. Saatchi's had convinced itself that it was doing fantastically well, and in some respects it was. But it has lost its specialness. So it seems sensible that the hard-nosed Roberts is going to take a more active role, particularly with his outsider's perspective. Watch the futures of Adam Crozier and Tamara Ingram, the highly regarded joint chief executives.

REMEMBER the quiz at the start of the World Cup asking you to name the 12 official sponsors? After more than a month of exposure, how do you fare now? The answers are MasterCard, Adidas, McDonald's, Fuji, JVC, Philips, Opel, Coca-Cola, Budweiser, Canon, Gillette and Snickers.

Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of Campaign.

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55 من الأصل

EDUCATION

Truancy gets the better of girls

Josh Hillman on a report that challenges the assumptions we hold about our wasted youth

Conjure up an image of a disaffected youth. The chances are that you will picture an aggressive male in his late teens, living in the inner city and possibly of ethnic origin.

Think again. When all the statistics on under-achievement and social exclusion are gathered, such stereotypes are confounded. The popular perception is that Britain's under-achievers are mainly boys, dragging each other down with anti-education peer-group pressure.

In fact, at the lowest levels of GCSE attainment, gender performance differences are not that great. Girls are just as likely to play truant from school, and just as likely not to be in education, training or work by the age of 17.

The roots of educational failure and disengagement are complex, stretching back to early experience at school and to family background. Young people now or formerly in local authority care are particularly vulnerable. One in four of those 14 to 16-year-olds in care is either excluded from school or does not attend regularly. These young people are overwhelmingly from low-income backgrounds and bring educational disadvantage with them into care. But rather than ameliorate this disadvantage, the experience of care seems to compound it — an indictment of the policies and practices of many local authorities.

The fallout is clear. Many

are severely disadvantaged, particularly in their ability to negotiate the complex transitions that life springs on them; for example, entry into the labour market or securing accommodation and independence.

So are we seeing the formation of a youth underclass? It is true that there are large and overlapping groups of teenage boys and girls — nearly one in ten — who play truant every

For many young people schools are custodial institutions

week, leave school without any qualifications, then do not go into any formal learning or work. More detailed study of the evidence shows that young people tend to follow complex pathways in different categories of activity in education and the labour market.

So the image of a static group of "socially excluded" youths is not accurate but is a status that people move in and out of. This suggests that though policies targeted at the disaffected are essential, they need to be accompanied by wider reforms.

The Institute for Public Policy

Research (IPPR), in its report *Wasted Youth* published today, identifies fundamental problems in the education and training system preventing Britain from tackling under-achievement and disaffection.

First, for too many young people, schools are custodial institutions, sealed off from the outside world and impermeable to external influences. Schools should be enabled to develop much stronger links with further education colleges, so that pupils can study in an alternative location alongside a more mature or mixed age group.

The boundaries between schools and their communities should also be broken down; for example, by bringing in a new class of teachers — associate teachers — making a regular contribution to the curriculum.

Secondly, school GCSE league tables have focused too much on those pupils with five A* to C passes. Funding is closely tied to a school's ability to attract pupils and this focus encourages them to concentrate their efforts on pupils around this level.

Thirdly, disaffected young people are served badly by the existing qualifications structure. The GCSE cliff-face at 16 effectively sorts young people into fairly rigid tracks. It also consigns a minority to "status zero" — not participating at all in education, training or employment.

Fourthly, arrangements for organising and funding tertiary education and training are

irrational in both their complexity and their inequity.

And finally, financial support for young people is now a minefield of anomalies. Many young people live in poverty or are homeless because of ineligibility for benefits while well-off parents of 16 to 19-year-olds in full-time education are able to claim child benefit.

The Government has, in the past 14 months, set in place a number of well-targeted programmes aimed at some of our most disaffected young people. It should now turn its attention to the more extensive and radical reforms required for the second term.

© The author is senior research fellow at the IPPR. *Wasted Youth* raising achievement and tackling social exclusion is available from Central Books (0181-486 5488).



Contrary to popular belief, disaffected young people are not exclusively male. Girls are just as likely as boys to suffer from low achievement at 17

HOME AND AWAY: CATCHING THEM UP TO NO GOOD



Truancy: sometimes it can be especially hard to detect

TODAY'S report on truancy and disaffection could not have come at a more topical moment. Ministers have made it clear that schools will have to tackle both if they are to collect their share of the Chancellor's billions.

Yet the Institute for Public Policy Research's analysis suggests that families are at least as important in the equation as teachers. Truants may not be the male underclass of media mythology, but persistent absentees do tend to have problems at home.

Home Office research has found that teenagers who spend long periods unsupervised are particularly likely to slip into regular truancy and crime. A low level of supervision, in turn, often indicates a poor relationship with one or both parents.

The legal duty to ensure that a child attends school regularly falls squarely on parents. But prosecutions are rare and schools recognise that fulfilling that

responsibility is not as easy as it sounds. Discovering that a child is playing truant often comes as a shock; there may be few warning signs.

The most insidious form of truancy — and the most difficult to quantify — involves selective absenteeism. The child leaves home at the right time, registers regularly, but then skips lessons he or she finds boring or difficult. There is no need even to leave the school.

As a result, national truancy statistics are seldom worth the paper they are written on. Many schools and local authorities have made genuine and sometimes successful attempts to tackle the problem, but the reassuring decline on the graph almost certainly owes more to reporting practice than reality.

As the IPPR suggests, the only sure way to make real progress is for parents and schools to work together.

JOHN O'LEARY

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Hotline help for students

THE countdown to A-level results has already begun in thousands of households and the agonising moment approaches when teenagers discover that the grades are not quite what they had hoped for. John O'Leary writes.

This summer, for the first time, *The Times* will be offering extra help for those who are still searching for seeking a higher education course after next month's results. As well as publishing the only daily newspaper listing of university vacancies, *The Times* will provide readers with a telephone hotline for advice on suitable courses. A team of trained advisers will give readers detailed information on opportunities in clearing.

The clearing process, which matches applicants to vacancies after universities and colleges have made initial offers, begins as A-level results appear on August 20. Admissions officers have the results days before the students, so have a clear idea of where the vacancies will fall.

With one student in six securing a place through clearing last year — 54,401 — the end of August will be frantic for those who miss their grades. The number of higher education places available this autumn will be similar to 1997, and, with applications only just down despite the introduction of tuition fees, there will be no time to lose in seeking the best courses.

After a full listing in a special supplement for results day, *The Times* will divide courses into arts and social sciences, sciences, and engineering and technology. Each will be covered twice a week, listing the latest vacancies and giving the information for applicants.

An American's dream

An American entrepreneur who says he can raise standards in British schools, reduce class sizes and give each pupil a laptop at no extra cost to the taxpayer says this week mer policy advisers to discuss his ideas.

Benno Schmidt, the head of the Edison Project, wants to help new Labour to fulfil its education pledges while making a profit for his education company. A former President of Yale University, Mr Schmidt has carried out the scheme in 25 American schools and plans to redesign and market education here. Already, some local education authorities are listening, and on Tuesday the Education Select Committee invited him to explain how it works.

The Edison Project has researched radical ideas to improve schools since 1995. After taking over the 25 schools, 90 per cent had their head teachers and staff replaced by new staff, who were paid 10 per cent more than the average teaching salary. Curricula were redesigned, school days and terms lengthened, and computers provided for all.

Besides private investment, Edison received per-pupil funding from America's equivalent of local education authorities. In state-run schools, only two thirds is received by the school; the rest is retained to provide additional services. However, Edison demands all the money and provides the extra services. It is this essential one third of government funding that it uses as profit. The results bode well. In 80 per cent of the schools, performance is better than average. The pupil/teacher ratio is 18:1.

Almost all local pupils choose to go to the schools. In one shining example, an Edison school whose pupils started out five months behind the national reading average progressed to four months ahead of it.

Mr Schmidt explains: "We judge the success of our schools primarily on how the pupils in the school are suc-

ceeded. We are working with largely disadvantaged communities, but we can turn the pupil performances around."

Scratch the surface, though, and the picture is hazier. At the school where pupils learnt to read fast, there had been a huge pupil turnover. More affluent and well-educated pupils arrived and reading ability jumped. The pressure put on teachers also appears to be enormous. With profit resting on pupil intake and pupil intake resting on results, teacher turnover at the schools is double the US average.

"Some very able and fine school leaders who have per-

formed well in other schools are just not right for our schools," Mr Schmidt says. "They have to be able to make radical changes, which is the critical element. If they are not right, we fire them."

Another cause for concern, which binds improved results with profitmaking, is the accommodation made for special needs children. Edison believes that separate teaching is not needed. Pupils are taught together, with more attention focused on special needs children. This, Mr Schmidt says, saves money and the children still learn adequately. But though 20 per cent of pupils in Boston schools have special needs, only 12 per cent have opted for the Edison system. Mr Schmidt disputes the statistics.

Strangely, Edison has not yet made a profit in the US, because the money is reinvested. It hopes to run at least 35 schools here. Mr Schmidt says that he would invest £10 million to research changes to the school system, and then put £1 million into each secondary school involved.

A week after David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, called for more radical proposals for the next education action zone bids, and with promises of large financial investment, the Edison way is increasingly appealing.

As a business, Edison needs good academic performance to attract pupils and drive profit. But how the books are made to balance, and what falls by the wayside in the process, remains carefully shaded behind the Edison glow.

VICTORIA FLETCHER



Schmidt: mixing idealism with profit

مكتبة من الأصل

RACING: BERRY-TRAINED JUVENILE LIKELY TO JOIN BOLSHOI IN GROUP ONE YORK SPRINT

Speedy James stands by for Nunthorpe



Berry: group one aim

By CHRIS McGRATH

HIS talent has always been manifest in terms of quantity, as the eighth winner of another prolific campaign affirmed at Bath yesterday — but Jack Berry continues to be vexed by his quest for the group one success that would offer the ultimate emphasis in terms of quality.

Horses such as Mind Games and Paris House went close and the trainer hopes that he can cash in the debt of their misfortune sooner rather than later. In Speedy James, moreover, he has a horse with as much natural speed as any of the sprinters with which he has typically excelled over the years.

When Berry saddled

Rosselli to win the Norfolk Stakes — contributing, along with Bolshoi (King's Stand Stakes) and Selhurst Park Flyer (Wokingham Handicap) to a marvellous Royal Ascot for the Lancastrian yard — his mood of euphoria was palpably deflated by the way Speedy James had dropped away to finish only eighth behind his stable companion.

The brilliantly fast colt had scorched into a clear early lead, but began hanging as his rivals laboured into contention, the combined result of cloying ground and loss of a shoe. Now Berry is toying with the idea of taking on Elnadim, who staked his claim to the sprint championship in the July Cup at Newmarket last week, in the

RICHARD EVANS

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Nunthorpe Stakes at York next month. "I'd still hope Bolshoi is ideal for the race, but two-year-olds do get well in there, and you never know," Berry said yesterday. "He just needs a bit of strength, but it's towards the back of the season and he is very sharp. First, he'll go for the Molecomb at Goodwood and then last year's schedule, when his first title eventually came

in a length and a quarter by Sheikh Albadou when he ran in the Nunthorpe as a two-year-old. That was a bit of an adventure, as I think he was the first of his age to run in 30-odd years, but it has become more fashionable since and Lyric Fantasy actually went on to win it. Either way, we'll get that group one win one day."

Not that there is anything wrong with quantity as a measure of success on the unforgiving Flat circuit, as Kieren Fallon might testify. This most tenacious of champion jockeys yesterday made Enemy Action his hundredth winner of the season in the Capricorn Fillies Stakes at Doncaster — five days ahead of last year's schedule, when his first title eventually came

in a length and a quarter by Sheikh Albadou when he ran in the Nunthorpe as a two-year-old. That was a bit of an adventure, as I think he was the first of his age to run in 30-odd years, but it has become more fashionable since and Lyric Fantasy actually went on to win it. Either way, we'll get that group one win one day."

On Wednesday, Fallon had incurred a two-day ban for careless riding, and one of his mounts had broken a leg. A happier day in the office continued with a 101st success on Agnir, while Enemy Action, a half-sister to Daggers Drawn, may go for the Peugeot Lowther Stakes on the same card as the Nunthorpe Stakes.

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6.20 ADMIRALTY 100 APPRENTICE HANDICAP

(2.23.57, 1m) (10 runners)

1. 2111 SHARF (D.F.) 5.5-10 (10) P. Goodie (5)
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6.50 NETHERAVON NOVICE STAKES

(2.19.0, 5.3.43, 6.21.20) (8 runners)

1. 2111 SHARF (D.F.) 5.5-10 (10) P. Goodie (5)
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7.20 PRICEMASTERHOUSECOOPERS HANDICAP

(3.4.0, 5.3.10, 1m 40) (8 runners)

1. 2111 SHARF (D.F.) 5.5-10 (10) P. Goodie (5)
2. 2111 SHARF (D.F.) 5.5-10 (10) P. Goodie (5)
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7.50 EBF NIGHTFALL CLASSIFIED STAKES

(5.7.7, 1m 10) (9 runners)

1. 2111 SHARF (D.F.) 5.5-10 (10) P. Goodie (5)
2. 2111 SHARF (D.F.) 5.5-10 (10) P. Goodie (5)
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8.20 NETTUN CLAIMING HANDICAP

(2.54.0, 6m) (16 runners)

1. 2111 SHARF (D.F.) 5.5-10 (10) P. Goodie (5)
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8.50 ODDSTOCK MAIDEN STAKES

(2.54.9, 1m 15) (13 runners)

1. 2111 SHARF (D.F.) 5.5-10 (10) P. Goodie (5)
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Sri Lankans risk defeat to give bowlers practice

Injured Klusener heads for home

SAILING
Mansfield proves smooth in rough

Ferguson lines up £4m Blomqvist

Davies flies high with two eagles

estfield Cockney (10-1) 18 ran. 2K1, 3K2
Nicholls Tot: £2.20, £1.80, £5.30, £1.60
F: £51.10, Tri. £81.40, CSF: £28.48
Acepot: £90.80, Quadpot: £25.80.

GOLF

Rough passage leaves Leonard with plenty to do

By Matt Dickinson

JUSTIN LEONARD'S gift for trite understatement cannot be understated. "It must have brought out goosebumps when you were introduced as the defending Open champion?" he was asked. "Yeah, it was kinda fun."

It was a bit much, then, to expect the American to admit being any worse than "sorta disappointed" by a scrappy round of 73 yesterday.

Leonard professes to let his golf do the talking and yesterday it screamed "help". The problems were plentiful, but he was principally undone by rough thicker even than his Texan drawl.

Twice he disappeared into it almost up to his thighs and, as he reached for help from his sand-wedge, he must have regretted not packing a machete.

When we last saw him on an Open course, Leonard was putting on the last green to complete the almost flawless 65 that clinched the Championship at Troon. It was an unfamiliar figure, then, who arrived on the tee at the 498-yard 13th yesterday and finished the hole a quarter of an hour later looking like someone who had been hacking his way through the jungle.

Having sliced his drive half way to Liverpool, he then appeared to be trying to dig a passage to the centre of the earth. He slashed one wedge shot 80 yards into more rough and then pulled his next across the fairway into even more trouble. He did superbly to escape with a six.



TELEVISION TODAY: BBC2 10.30am-12.30pm: BBC1 12.30-1pm: BBC1 1.00-7.30pm: Highlights: BBC1 10.00-10.45pm.

While Leonard was trying to recapture his form of last season, one of his playing partners, Thomas Bjorn, was doing his best to consign his most recent Open memories to the dustbin.

There are those who worry that the Dane tries too hard to fulfill his limitless ambitions, and it certainly seemed the case last year when he left

BIRKDALE DIARY

GARY PLAYER hit his 10.28th stroke in the Open when he teed off at 3.05pm yesterday. Player, 62, is the oldest competitor and making his 43rd consecutive appearance. He has won the Open in three decades — the 50s, 60s and 70s — but his total winnings are £44,163.60. His biggest cheque from this illustrious event was £5,500 when he won at Royal Lytham in 1974 — £100 less than the player who will finish last of those who play four rounds this year.

Steve Jones, whose memories of a tournament victory are fresher in the mind than any of his 155 fellow competitors, was responsible for a 73 yesterday, despite finishing his first round with an eagle and a par. On Sunday evening, Jones won the Quad Cities Classic in Illinois. As even former US Open champions cannot be in two places at once, he was forced to catch a Monday flight. Most of his compatriots were into their practice rounds.

Greg Chalmers, of Australia, displayed admirable mental fortitude in repairing the damage of a wretched start to his first Open. Chalmers, a left-hander who occupied joint second place in the Peugeot Spanish Open and National Car Rental English Open this season, retained his composure, despite opening with a triple-bogey seven on the 449-yard 1st. He also bogeyed the 17th — which, on scoring average, was proving to be the easiest hole on the course — but four birdies from the 13th onwards contributed to a respectable 71.

Commercialism may be becoming more rife in golf, but some people are determined to maintain standards. Coca-Cola offered the owners of a white round house overlooking the course £80,000 to dub it in red logos. When the offer was politely refused, the drinks giant returned with a six-figure temptation, but that, too, has received a firm "no".

Troon almost in tears, cursing his own failings.

In Denmark, they call him the bear and, a burly man with eyebrows as thick as a gorse bush, Bjorn appears to growl around the course much as Colin Montgomerie does when he is not pretending to be relaxed.

Fortunately, Bjorn has a caddy, Martin Gray, who took a Masters degree in temperamental bosses by working for Severiano Ballesteros. It was Gray who memorably responded to the Spaniard's complaint that he had been given a bad apple by telling him to employ a green-grocer rather than a caddy. Their relationship ended soon afterwards.

Gray's new boss is not exactly the cuddly type either, but there were glimpses yesterday of a new-found maturity as well as the talent that many believe makes Bjorn, at the age of 27, a major winner in waiting.

Twice he missed simple putts, but he kept calm and seized his next opportunities.

"It is important for me to play well in the Open if I am to establish myself among the best in the world and that is what I want to do," he said.

"I want to be able to win majors and I believe I can. I think I showed at the Ryder Cup that I can beat the best in the world and I just need something to kick it off."

It was in the Ryder Cup that Bjorn so memorably came back from four down after four to tie with Leonard in a crucial singles match and he once again proved more resilient than his American rival, not to mention David Duval, the other member of the trio, who finished level par after a bit of pulled round approaches.

Bjorn's 68 should have been better but he missed two four-foot putts. He expressed general satisfaction with his play, though, and he may yet figure among the contenders. After handing in his card, Bjorn headed straight for the practice ground to work on his driving. If he fails to make an impact here, it will not be for want of trying. But then, maybe that is the problem. He wants it too much.

Bjorn feels he has a point to prove for he was the only member of the victorious European Ryder Cup team at Valderrama not to be invited to play in the Masters earlier this year.

It was a snub he took to heart for, as a player from a country with little golfing tradition, he acts as an ambassador for Denmark.

He certainly looks in better shape than Duval on whom so much money has been wagered. Two birdies in the last four holes may have stopped many thousands ripping up the betting slips but Duval walked off the course a frustrated man. At least that is how he seemed behind his impenetrable shades.



Cup of woe: Montgomerie takes a drinks break on the 5th tee, before his round began to run into trouble

Montgomerie falls at the first

Mel Webb watches mood of Scot change as poor round rules him out of contention

FOR Colin Montgomerie, that most complex of golfers, there is normal (ie, good) form, major championship form and Open form, and each one is worse than the last. Yesterday, he experienced all three, but the most enduring of them was the last. Only a quarter of this championship has been played and already Montgomerie is virtually out of contention.

Montgomerie has admitted that he usually saves his worst golf of the year for the third week in July. Indeed, he has uttered the words so often that one begins to wonder if a malevolent voice in his subconscious does not chant a mantra that lures him onto the arena rocks of Open Championship failure before he hits a ball.

That Montgomerie is one of the finest players in the world is beyond dispute. So what leads him, almost invariably, to falter in his home Open? He wishes he knew. Furthermore, he must wonder why, if he is destined to have one bad round in every Open, it always comes on the first day.

His record in the championship hovers on the far side of dreadful. He has missed the cut four times in the past six years and on the two occasions that he has stayed on the course, he has played well on the final three days. By which time, the damage has already been done. Last year, he opened with a 76, then played the last 54 holes in five under par. In 1994, his previous full Open, he started with a 72, then went 69, 65, 69 to tie for eighth. That

remains his best performance in an Open. Yesterday, he had a 73, another chance scattered to the four winds. It could have been so different. He had the sort of start he would have dreamt of if he were the sort of individual to indulge in such frilleries. He birdied the 3rd with a slippery downhill putt of 15 feet. Was this to be a good putting day? Montgomerie has said that when he puts well, he usually wins, and when he doesn't, well, he will still be good enough for a top-ten finish. If he thinks that he is going to make the top ten this week, he had better learn to dream pretty quickly.

He followed it up with a magnificent three-iron to six feet on the 6th and holed the putt for another birdie. Two under. Who could ask for anything more?

His demeanour in these early stages was a revelation, too. Montgomerie has been observed playing hundreds of rounds in the past few years, but never has been seen in such extrovert mood. He smiled, he chatted to his partners, shared a small joke with the rules official, Mike Stewart, of the European Tour, and even broke off a couple of times to

wander over to chew the fat with Richard Boxall, his fellow professional, who was doing a commentating stint for BBC Television.

He even sailed, unperturbed, through a pace-of-play warning. He and his two partners, Ben Crenshaw and Andrew Magee, were put on the clock on the 6th and taken off it on the 10th fairway. At this point, nothing could disturb his equanimity, not even the noise of a passing helicopter.

A bogey at the 7th also failed to shake Montgomerie out of his tranquil stride, but he wobbled perceptibly when he dropped a shot at the short 12th, where a ham-fisted chip from greenside rough left him with an 18-foot putt for a par. Missed — level par.

His expression grew darker when he bogeyed the 13th after driving into a bunker, and by the time he dropped another shot at the 16th, during the execution of which he bemoaned a television cameraman for standing in his line, he was positively volcanic. "The British Open [sic] is not the place to learn where to be with your camera," he growled to Stewart. Monty the expansive had been replaced by Monty the grouchy.

His misery was far from being over as he finished with four straight fives, two of which were bogeys, to leave him a disillusioned and disappointed man. "All I've got left now is trying to make the cut," he said. When Montgomerie is in this sort of mood, he makes Pagliacci look like a Butlin's Redcoat.

Nerves get better of flagging Westwood

By John Hopkins
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Lee Westwood walked on to the 1st tee just before 9.25am yesterday, hundreds of spectators lined the right of the fairway and hundreds more gathered behind the tee. They gave him a big cheer and clapped lustily. Westwood is from Worksop, and on the path between the 12th green and the 13th tee he walked past four schoolchildren from Nottingham holding a flag of St George, on which they had written: "Westwood for the jug".

As Westwood paced this way and that on the 1st tee, perhaps the thought occurred that almost every one of those spectators wanted him to win the Open. What a responsibility. The sheer scale of support for him was uplifting. Was it also a little intimidating?

Westwood is young, self-confident and playing remarkable golf. However, perhaps nerves and the weight of expectation have got the better of him at the start of the two big events that have been held in Europe in the past nine months. Two dropped strokes in his first four holes yesterday gave him a heavy load to carry and he only partly retrieved this poor start by scoring birdies at two of his last three holes for a 71.

Equally, Westwood was clearly nervous in the first match in the Ryder Cup last September, the foursomes in which he and Nick Faldo eventually lost to Fred Couples and Brad Faxon.

Is there any wonder? Westwood, remember, has just turned 25. It was his first Ryder Cup, this is only his fourth Open. Give him time. "I have come to see the boy wonder and I haven't seen much wonder," an American said on the 13th. At that point the Englishman did not look like the man who has won a quarter of the tournaments in which he has competed over the past nine months.

On the green at that hole, a portable telephone went off in the crowd. Mick Dolan, Westwood's caddy, asked for it to be turned off, as did Westwood. Later Westwood would say: "If you bring a telephone to the golf course you are too busy. You should be in the office."



Westwood: poor start

Up to then, his golf had been joyless, at least his putting had. His putts stopped short, a sign of nerves, slipped past the right of the hole or ghosted away to the left. It was not until the 16th, when one of 12 feet fell in at the last gasp, that Westwood sank anything longer than a few feet.

The frustration was getting the better of him and, just when he least expected it, he holed one across the 17th green for his second birdie of the day in as many holes. This slightly made up for hitting his second shot into a bush on the 15th, a mistake for which he was lucky to drop only one stroke.

At one over par, Westwood is far from out of it. Perhaps now he has got the first round out of the way his talent will blossom in the way his play improved dramatically in the Ryder Cup. Westwood hit some magnificent irons in the glorious sunshine yesterday, notably on the 11th, the 16th and the 18th, and the more he settled he looked. Long may this trend continue. He has a lot of ground to make up.

EARLY SCORES FROM ROYAL BIRKDALE

66: J Huston (US), T Woods (US)
67: N Price (Zim)
67: F Jacobson (Swe), B Faxon (US), D Love III (US), V Singh (FI)
68: D Howell, S Ames (Tm), B Tway (US), G Turner (NZ), J Parnell (Swe), P Walton, T Bjorn (Den), R Russell, B Watts (US)

69: G Evans, S Torrance, M Calcavecchia (US), P Baker, S Garcia (Sp)
70: S Stricker (US), "D De Vooght (Bel), K Fukusab (Japan), B Jobe (US), J P Hayes (US), J Fuyk (US), L Mize (US), G Dodd (Aus), K J Choi (Kor), B May (US), D Duval (US), S Miyazawa (Japan)

71: J Haggman (Swe), S Clark (US), T Taniuchi (Japan), L Westwood, M Brooks (US), E Romero (Arg), O Malley (Aus), B Brand Jr, D Carter, C Franco (Par), I Garrido (Sp), A Lyle, Y Mizumaki (Japan)

72: S Dunlap (US), P Splend (Swe), K Hosokawa (Japan), B Maylar (US), B Lane, B Estes (US), R Karlsson (Swe), S Allen (Aus), P McGinley, D Frost (SA), R Giles, A Casco, T Level (FI), B Davis, P Price, M Ozaki (Japan), M O'Meara (US), N Faldo

73: M A Jimenez (Sp), S Hoch (US), S Ballesteros (Sp), T Watson (US)

C Montgomerie, C Strange (US), T Dadds (Nrm), M McNulty (Zim), D Clarke, T Johnstone (Zim), P Harrington, S Jones (US), G Hutchison, S Alier (NZ), H Clark, M Campbell (NZ), J Leonard (US), J Maggert (US)

74: J L Guespy (FI), C Pavin (US), R Clayton, P U Johnson (Swe), G Brown, R Drummond, S Young, G Spring, S Kendall (US), J Durant (US)

75: K Tomori (Japan), "M Kucher (US), S Ellington (Aus), A Magee (US), F Henge (Swe), S Lennay (Aus)

76: S Appleby (Aus), B Crenshaw (US), P Azinger (US), R Davis (Aus), P Mitchell

77: S Henderson, L Jones, C Surinsson (Sp)

78: T Suzuki (Japan), F Howley

* denotes amateur



Faldo: round of 72

TEE-OFF TIMES

0715: T Level (FI), H Clark, B Davis
0725: G Brand Jr, B May, R Davis (Aus)
0735: P Mitchell, M Campbell (NZ), P Walton
0745: J Leonard (US), T Bjorn (Den), D Duval (US)
0755: S Kendall (US), D Carter, C Franco (Par)
0805: J Maggert (US), P Price, N Ozaki (Japan)
0815: D Love III (US), I Garrido (Sp), V Singh (FI)
0825: M O'Meara (US), N Faldo, S Miyazawa (Japan)
0835: J Durant (US), R Russell, S Lennay (Aus)
0845: B Watts (US), S Lyle, Y Mizumaki (Japan)
0855: J Jacobson (Swe), C Pacey (Aus)
0905: J Day (US), B Langer (Swe), P Azinger (Aus)
0915: S Allen (Aus), J M Collist, F Howley (Aus)
0925: F Guespy (FI), J M Collist, R Clayton (US), J U Johnson (Swe), G Brown, R Drummond, S Young, G Spring, S Kendall (US), J Durant (US)
0935: D Howell, S Ames (Tm), B Tway (US), G Turner (NZ), J Parnell (Swe), P Walton, T Bjorn (Den), R Russell, B Watts (US)
0945: J Huston (US), T Woods (US)
0955: N Price (Zim)
1005: F Jacobson (Swe), B Faxon (US), D Love III (US), V Singh (FI)
1015: D Howell, S Ames (Tm), B Tway (US), G Turner (NZ), J Parnell (Swe), P Walton, T Bjorn (Den), R Russell, B Watts (US)
1025: G Evans, S Torrance, M Calcavecchia (US), P Baker, S Garcia (Sp)
1035: S Stricker (US), "D De Vooght (Bel), K Fukusab (Japan), B Jobe (US), J P Hayes (US), J Fuyk (US), L Mize (US), G Dodd (Aus), K J Choi (Kor), B May (US), D Duval (US), S Miyazawa (Japan)
1045: J Haggman (Swe), S Clark (US), T Taniuchi (Japan), L Westwood, M Brooks (US), E Romero (Arg), O Malley (Aus), B Brand Jr, D Carter, C Franco (Par), I Garrido (Sp), A Lyle, Y Mizumaki (Japan)
1055: S Dunlap (US), P Splend (Swe), K Hosokawa (Japan), B Maylar (US), B Lane, B Estes (US), R Karlsson (Swe), S Allen (Aus), P McGinley, D Frost (SA), R Giles, A Casco, T Level (FI), B Davis, P Price, M Ozaki (Japan), M O'Meara (US), N Faldo
1105: M A Jimenez (Sp), S Hoch (US), S Ballesteros (Sp), T Watson (US)
1115: C Montgomerie, C Strange (US), T Dadds (Nrm), M McNulty (Zim), D Clarke, T Johnstone (Zim), P Harrington, S Jones (US), G Hutchison, S Alier (NZ), H Clark, M Campbell (NZ), J Leonard (US), J Maggert (US)
1125: J L Guespy (FI), C Pavin (US), R Clayton, P U Johnson (Swe), G Brown, R Drummond, S Young, G Spring, S Kendall (US), J Durant (US)
1135: K Tomori (Japan), "M Kucher (US), S Ellington (Aus), A Magee (US), F Henge (Swe), S Lennay (Aus)
1145: S Appleby (Aus), B Crenshaw (US), P Azinger (US), R Davis (Aus), P Mitchell
1155: S Henderson, L Jones, C Surinsson (Sp)
1205: T Suzuki (Japan), F Howley

1035: G Player (SA), G Day (US), P Baker, S Ames (Tm)
1045: D Cooper, M Long (NZ), D Smyth (Ire)
1055: P Lewis, M Halberg (Swe), S Stricker (US)
1105: A Brand, D Lyle, M McIlroy (Ire)
1115: A McLardy (SA), A Odom, P Hedstrom (Swe)
1125: J L Guespy (FI), J Maggert (US), M Lyle
1135: "J Ross, S Thirring (Den), B Stricker
1145: D Shackledy, S Armstrong, J Lennay
1155: J L Guespy (FI), F Jacobson (Swe), G Brand Jr
1205: M A Jimenez (Sp), S Dunlap (US), K Tomori (Japan)
1215: "M Kucher (US), S Torrance, S Appleby (Aus)
1225: S Hoch (US), P Splend (Swe), S Ellington (Aus)
1235: S Stricker (US), S Ballesteros (Sp), T Watson (US)
1245: C Pavin (US), "D De Vooght (Bel), K Hosokawa (Japan)
1255: B Maylar (US), B Lane, D Howell
1305: M Calcavecchia (US), J Haggman (Swe), K Fuyk (Japan)
1315: S Clark (US), J Huston, T Taniuchi (Japan)

1325: S Estes (US), P Baker, S Ames (Tm)
1335: S Jones (US), R Karlsson (Swe), T Suzuki (Japan)
1345: A Mize (US), C Montgomerie, B Crenshaw (US)
1355: S Tway (US), C Strange (US), G Turner (NZ)
1405: S Faxon (US), L Westwood, T Dadds (Swe)
1415: J P Hayes (US), R Clayton, M McLardy (Zim)
1425: T Woods (US), P U Johnson (Swe), N Price (Zim)
1435: M Brooks (US), D Clarke, E Romero (Arg)
1445: P Azinger, "S Garcia (Sp), T Johnstone (Zim)
1455: J Parnell (Swe), P Harrington, S Allen (Aus)
1505: S Jones (US), J Parnell (Swe), P McGinley (Aus)
1515: L Mize (US), P McGinley, D Frost (SA)
1525: G Brown, R Drummond, S Henderson
1535: G Hutchison, S Young, G Spring
1545: G Dodd (Aus), R Giles, Nyoung Ju Choi (Kor)
1555: F Howley, S Alier (NZ), L Jones
1605: F Henge (Swe), C Surinsson (Sp), A Casco

* denotes amateur

Secure Sports Marketing Survey Ltd



WHO'LL WIN THE BALL COUNT? IT'S AN OPEN SECRET.

No other golf event in the world is as rich in folklore as the Open. This most ancient and respected of championships is steeped in tradition — from the famous Claret Jug to the annual ritual of the ball count. Every year since 1980 a count has been held and every year it has been won by Titleist. So which ball is being used by more players than all other balls combined this year? It's not exactly a secret at Royal Birkdale, it could only be the #1 ball in golf.

Titleist
#1 ball in golf.

مكذبا من الأصل

Woods woos galleries despite saving himself and spending a penny

Flushed with joy on Tiger's trail

LYNNE TRUSS



At the Open

The culture shock after five weeks of football in France is considerable. It's like the room the cannon fire stops and you can hear the birds sing. Hello clouds, hello sky. On the sunny, breezy 18th fairway yesterday, following Tiger Woods, Nick Price and Per-Ulrik Johansson, I plucked a small blue flower from the knee-high grass and for a few seconds felt intensely poetic.

Ahead was a large gallery of polite, appreciative golf fans who would fall absolutely silent for Tiger's putt and would, under no circumstances, commence a Mexican wave or boo a bad shot. As I said to a colleague, these people never seem to sing "You're great and you know you are." "Well," he agreed, "only with Colin Montgomerie, anyway."

If the conditions were blissful, so was the sight of Woods playing so well. On previous first-hand sightings — at the Open last year, and at the Ryder Cup — he had been the epitome of the old saying about all going and no dinner. Yesterday he shot a cool 65, and although he still adopted the pensive expression of a sensitive child about to take a piano exam, he was playing what he later called "smart golf", and clearly enjoying it.

For a while he led the field by one stroke at six under par; bogeying the 18th, he dropped back to share the lead with John Huston. Those of us who had chosen to spend 4½ hours following him from 1st tee to



Woods played "smart golf" by eliminating risk, but the large crowds that followed him around Royal Birkdale were scarcely less entranced

18th green felt jolly smug about it. I can tell you, Price finished only one stroke behind. It was marvellous.

It wasn't the same Tiger Woods, however. Not quite. Just as his crowds were less hysterical than before, so smart golf has reined him in. The yellers and shriekers have found someone else to yell and shriek at, and Woods isn't outdriving everybody just for the hell of it.

Anyone adopting the Tiger-viewing strategy of last year — waiting for his tee-shot at a spot calculated by seeing other people's tee-shots and adding 50 yards — would have been very disappointed. Only at the 411-yard 9th did Tiger wield the famous driver for maximum gasp and put the ball just short of the green. Otherwise, he laid up with unwavering accuracy, which made his performance less of a whizz-bang crowd-pleaser, but more

like really fine golf. It was an excellent round; as indeed was that of Price. Poor Per-Ulrik, finishing four over par, looked pretty cheesed, and you couldn't blame him. I have a theory that God punishes Swedish golfers who wear jeans-style trousers (see Jesper Parnevik, *passim*), and this theory was well attested.

It was less of a whizz-bang crowd pleaser but more like really fine golf

While his more traditionally accented partners knocked spots off him, Per-Ulrik's sartorial decisions began to look a bit silly. That cap worn back to front, for example, can look the ultra-cool Tarantino accessory of choice, but at the same time it can slip, uncomfortably, into the realms of the youthful Mickey Rooney. So

to hate. And then they made enthusiastic "Ooh" and "Hey!" noises for the other two players — in particular, for Tiger's magnificent 30-yard putt at the 13th, which appeared to describe a perfect semi-circle before dropping daintily into the old tin cup.

It wasn't fair, but that's life. People watched Tiger with

intense quiet, willing the ball to the hole. As for Per-Ulrik, however, two or three times they started to move off from the green unaware that the luckless Swede had still to putt out. Or if they were aware of it, they didn't care.

The glory of the conditions ("benign" seemed to be the official description) helped everything along. Tiger had to pop off and remove a sweater at one point because it was warming up so much. The light, warm wind was regarded as a friend. "This won't last," we all told each other. "They're forecasting gales for tomorrow."

All the more reason for Tiger to get a good first round tucked under that skinny waistband and use the wind when he could. Afterwards, he said his 360-yard tee-shot at the 9th was just a matter of getting the ball airborne, as if it were a paper plane. He also

said: "I love this course; it's difficult but it's fair. Everything is right there in front of you."

So it was a marvellous start to the Open. One of the many contrasts with the World Cup is that the players are so much closer. In fact, I was just remarking on this intimacy phenomenon as Tiger teed off at the 10th, when he suddenly sprinted to the temporary toilets beside me, and muttering "gotta go when you gotta go," made his way into the Ladies (the Gents being occupied).

Lumme. What did we do now? It was what they call in the movies an interesting *Sitch-ew-ayshun*. Standing outside, trying not to listen for telltale noises, should one cough, talk loudly, hum? I can only say, it was the sort of etiquette conundrum that never, ever raises itself in the world of football.

Few alarms as benefits dawn on early risers

By PHIL YATES

"GOOD morning, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to this, the 127th Open Championship," Ivor Robson, the long-serving starter, announced at precisely 7.15am. A few seconds later, Jean-Louis Guepy, an understandably nervous Frenchman, teed off, and the great event began.

For many, the prospect of rising while the dawn chorus tunes up is decidedly unappealing. Fredrik Jacobson, who accompanied Guepy and Gary Evans on the early-morning shift, had no problem climbing out of bed at 4.50am. After all, his Open debut was only a couple of hours away.

Jacobson has no window in his hotel room, so the Swede had no means of knowing that the gales of the past five days had relented and that he would be favoured with near-ideal conditions. The penny dropped when he stepped onto the becalmed practice range just after six o'clock.

"I knew then that I'd got a good tee time," Jacobson, who took full advantage to record a three-under-par round of 67 which briefly left him as the leader, said. He would gladly exchange a sleepless night for an identical score today.

Jacobson and Evans — who has experience of a pre-breakfast introduction to Birkdale, having got the Championship's 120th staging under way in 1991 — appreciated other benefits of being ground-breakers: no spike marks, no hold-ups and, the obvious ordeal of the first tee aside, a relatively sparse gallery. "I had a bacon, butte with brown sauce and was raring to go," Evans, who at 11.30am birdied the 18th for a 69, said. He went to a more substantial lunch with every reason to be quietly satisfied.

Not that the threesome played without distractions. A couple of boisterous gentlemen on a garden lawn

behind the 5th tee had to be informed of the need for silence, while another momentary interruption occurred when a policeman blew his nose rather fiercely. The absence of a sizeable audience was of particular use to Jacobson on the 9th. After bogeying the 8th to fall two over par, he decided that answering the call of nature was imperative. A convenient bush was located and he went from strength to strength. "I couldn't see any toilets, but I had to go."



Jacobson on the 1st tee

he said. "My body was so tense over certain putts in the early stages, I didn't hole anything."

Jacobson birdied three of the next four holes and, walking to his ball in a greenside bunker at the 13th, spied his name on the leaderboard. He remained one under until the 17th, when a cross-green eagle putt found the target. Jacobson, unable to play for seven weeks earlier this year after injuring his thumb on a skiing holiday, was delighted.

Jacobson looked forward to a good night's rest, but there was none in store — certainly of the emotional kind — for Evans, as the bird of his second child was expected last night. Given his penchant for early-morning golf, Dawn might not be a bad name should he be presented with a daughter.

EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

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ENTER FOR THE AUSTRIAN GRAND PRIX TODAY

The results of the British Grand Prix appear below with Michael Schumacher leading the drivers on 119 points and Ferrari heading the constructors with 215 points. J Kilmartin of Maidenhead, Berkshire, wins a trip for two to next year's British Grand Prix. His team, Francos I, scored 1,350 points, including 600 bonus points, at Silverstone.

How to Enter Pick six drivers and six constructors, three from each of the four groups below. To qualify for the Austrian Grand Prix UK readers should call 0891 40 50 01 (Roi +44 990 100 311) before Thursday July 23 using a Touch-tone



FORMULA ONE

telephone and tap in their 12 selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply. Checkline Check your score after British race by calling 0891 884 648 (+44 990 100 348 ex UK) using your PIN. Faxback Service Call our faxback service on 0991 111 444 (UK only. Calls cost £1/min).

Transfers Change up to four selections before the Austrian race by calling 0891 555 994 (+44 990 100 394 ex UK) before noon on Thursday July 7.

RESULTS OF THE BRITISH GRAND PRIX

DRIVERS: Qualifying points (scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid): Pole M Hakkinen 30 points; 2nd M Schumacher 25; 3rd J Villeneuve 24; 4th D Coulthard 23; 5th E Irvine 22; 6th H-H Frenzen 21; 7th D Hill 20; 8th J Alesi 19; 9th J Herbert 18; 10th G Fisichella 17; 11th A Wurz 16; 12th P Diniz 15; 13th M Salo 14; 14th J Trulli 13; 15th J Verstappen 12; 16th R Barrichello 11; 17th T Takagi 10; 18th E Tuero 9; 19th S Nakano 8; 20th R Rosset 7. **Finishing points** (scored for E Tuero 9; 19th S Nakano 8; 20th R Rosset 7). **Fastest lap** (10 points): M Schumacher 60 points; 2nd R Schumacher 55; J Villeneuve 50; E Irvine 45; A Wurz 40; G Fisichella 35; P Diniz 30; J Trulli 25; R Rosset 20; E Tuero 15; J Verstappen 10; D Coulthard 5. **Lap times** (10 points): M Schumacher 45 points; S Nakano 33; T Takagi 24; A Wurz 21; G Fisichella 15; E Irvine 8; M Schumacher 3. **Fastest lap time of grand prix:** M Schumacher 10 points. **Penalty points** (incurred resulting in a driver being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted)): R Schumacher -10 points; O Pans -10. **Did not finish the race** (10 points deducted): J Alesi -10 points; P Diniz -10; O Pans -10; R Barrichello -10; J Herbert -10; M Salo -10; H-H Frenzen -10; J Trulli -10; R Rosset -10; E Tuero -10; J Verstappen -10; D Coulthard -10; J Trulli -10; R Rosset -10; E Tuero -10; J Herbert -10; M Salo -10; H-H Frenzen -10; J Trulli -10. **Not starting after qualifying** (10 points deducted): none. **Speeding in the pit lane** (5 points deducted): none.

CONSTRUCTORS: Finishing points (scored for the first car only in the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): Ferrari 30 points; McLaren 25; Benetton 23; Jordan 21; Williams 19; Minardi 19; Tyrrell 18. **Penalty points** (incurred resulting in a car being made to start from back of grid or pit lane during the race): Jordan -10 points; Prost -10. **Elimination of a car** (10 points deducted): Stewart -20 points; Prost -20; Arrows during the race (10 points deducted); Williams -10; Minardi -10; McLaren -10; 20; Sauter -20; Jordan -10; Williams -10; Minardi -10; Tyrrell -10; McLaren -10. **Not starting after qualifying** (10 points deducted): none. **Speeding in the pit lane** (5 points deducted): none.

BONUS POINTS apply to six grands prix during the 1998 Formula One championship. The fourth is the Hungarian GP. **Correctly predicting winning driver:** 100 points; second place: 200 points; third place: 300 points

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CHANGING TIMES

MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW

The first column of figures after the names below, shows the Fantasy Formula One race scores for the British GP. The second column shows the total points in the competition so far

DRIVERS			
GROUP A		GROUP B	
1 D Hill	23 612	12 A Wurz	128 577
2 M Schumacher	158 1199	13 R Schumacher	122 551
3 D Coulthard	50 854	14 J Trulli	40 490
4 G Fisichella	120 901	15 J Herbert	35 690
5 J Villeneuve	110 1023	16 M Salo	31 495
6 O Pans	20 674	17 P Diniz	50 473
7 H-H Frenzen	28 773	18 J Verstappen	40 574
8 E Irvine	128 1112	19 T Takagi	115 588
9 M Hakkinen	140 1150	20 R Rosset	28 384
10 J Alesi	82 836	21 S Nakano	125 726
11 R Barrichello	40 613	22 E Tuero	28 435

*Jos Verstappen replaces Jan Magnussen in the Stewart-Ford team from the French Grand Prix. Rule 2 applies.

CONSTRUCTORS							
GROUP C		GROUP D					
3	Williams	10	135	29	Sauber	-20	4
4	Ferrari	30	215	30	Arrows	-20	-
5	Benetton	23	134	31	Stewart	-20	-
6	McLaren	15	174	32	Tyrrell	8	-5
7	Jordan	1	5	33	Minardi	9	-
8	Prost	-30	-68				

*Jos Verstappen replaces Jan Magnussen in the Stewart-Ford team from the French Grand Prix. Rule 2 applies.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Begin Bridge with The Times: Lesson 14 - MiniBridge 9

Last week I wrote about how to choose whether to play in a suit contract or No-Trumps. Obviously, it is possible to play a suit contract just like No-Trumps, i.e. draw trumps and cash or establish winners, but the presence of a trump suit adds another dimension, that of ruffing (or trumping). Here is an example:

♠ A 6 4	♥ 9 8 4
♦ A 7 3 2	♣ 9 5 2
♠ 10 7 2	♥ 10 5
♦ 8 7	♣ 10 9
♠ 9 8 6	
♦ K J 2	
♠ A K 3	♥ K Q J 10 9
♦ K 4	
♠ A 6 4	

South is the dealer and the points are announced: South 20, West 8, North 8 and East 4. South becomes declarer. North puts down the dummy. With a combined 28 points, what should be the target?

Make up the hand and play in No-Trumps. There are ten tricks (your normal target with 28 points) on top (two spades, five hearts, two diamonds and one club). But for those of you who like to exceed targets, consider playing with Hearts as trumps. There are eight trumps of good quality, so it is unlikely that Hearts will play any worse than No-Trumps.

Before reading further, play out the hand with Hearts as trumps with the opening lead of the two of spades. See if you can make an extra trick.

This Time West did not have a clear choice of opening lead, no convenient sequence of honours. I would choose the two of spades. I generally prefer to lead away from a queen rather than a king — declarer too often has the ace and the queen and makes an extra trick. I choose the two because it is normal to lead the lowest from a three- or four-card suit (more about that later).

You, South, win the spade lead with the ace when East plays the jack, and lay down the king and queen of hearts. In a trump contract you should always draw as many trumps as you can afford just in case your opponents make extra tricks by ruffing instead of you. Here you have only one spade to ruff so you need to leave only one trump in the dummy. Because your trumps in hand are so strong, you can afford to ruff with dummy's ace, just in case East also has a doubleton spade and could overruff dummy's six. After the king and queen of hearts, cash the king of spades and ruff a spade with dummy's ace. Now play a diamond to your king and draw the remaining trumps. When you have cashed your other top winners you will find that you have eleven winners, one more than you had in No-Trumps.

□ If you would like a booklet explaining MiniBridge in greater detail, please write to the EBU, Broadfields, Biester Road, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 3BG; tel: 01296 394414, marking the envelope 'Times MiniBridge'.

WORD WATCH

By Philip Howard

PRAIRIE OYSTER
a. Lama droppings
b. A pick-me-up
c. An expensive wristwatch

GADROON
a. A scoundrel
b. Ornamental wire
c. A Venetian coin

BROCATELLE
a. A woven fabric
b. A Congress dance
c. A pin-board game

TOPOTAXY
a. A chemical reaction
b. Wild animal stuffing
c. Long distance car hire

Answers on page 50

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Kramnik's success

Today I conclude my coverage of the powerful tournament at Dortmund, where Michael Adams, of Great Britain, tied for first place. I look at two games played by the third member of the winning triumvirate, Vladimir Kramnik, the Russian grandmaster. Kramnik is one of those unfortunate individuals who consistently displays great strength, except at critical psychological moments. This may explain his clear defeat by Alexei Shirov in the qualifying match to play Kasparov for his world title, despite the fact that Kramnik was the favourite before the eliminator began.

White: Vladimir Kramnik

Black: Artur Yusupov

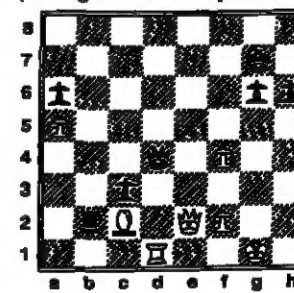
Dortmund 1998

Queen's Gambit Declined

1 Nf3	d5
2 d4	Nf6
3 c4	e6
4 Nc3	Bc7
5 Bg5	h6
6 Bf4	O-O
7 e3	b6
8 Bc3	Bb7
9 O-O	Nd7
10 Qe2	c5
11 Bg3	Nc6
12 cxd5	exd5
13 Rxd1	Nxd3
14 hxd3	ae
15 dxc5	bxc5
16 Bb1	Nb6
17 a4	Bf6
18 Qe2	g6
19 a5	Nc4
20 Nd5	Nxb2
21 Nd6+	Qxd6
22 Rxd2	hxd3
23 gxd3	Rxd6
24 h4	c4
25 a4	Rf6
26 Rf2	Rxd2
27 Qxd2	Qd5
28 Qe2	Qd4
29 e5	Nd3

30 Bc2	hxe6
31 Qxe6+	kg7
32 Bx4	c5
33 Bc2	Rd2
34 Qe7+	kg8
35 Qe2	Nd4
36 g4	Kf7
37 Rd1	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



White: Vladimir Kramnik
Black: Peter Svidler
Dortmund 1998

Grünfeld Defence

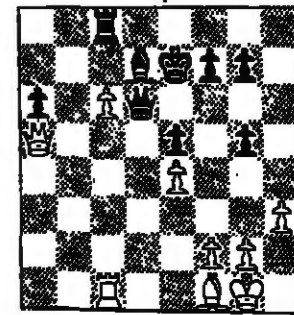
1 d4	Nf6
2 c4	g6
3 Nc3	ds
4 cxd5	Nxd5
5 e4	Nc3
6 bxc3	Bg7
7 Bc4	c5
8 Nc2	Nc6
9 Bc3	cx4
10 cxd4	Qe5+
11 Bc2	Qd8
12 d5	Nd5
13 Bc3	O-O
14 Bc3	Qe6
15 h4	Np4
16 Bc4	Qe5+
17 Qd2	Qxd2+
18 Kxd2	ae
19 hxd4	exd4
20 hxd4	g5
21 g3	Bg4
22 a5	Ba2
23 Kxe2	Rf6
24 Rxd1	Rd3
25 Rd3	Rxd3
26 d6	b5
27 Rxd3	dx3
28 Rb3	Kf8
29 e7+	Kd6
30 Bx7+	Black resigns

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Farago — Jurkovic, Italy, 1998. Black is relying on the fact that White cannot capture the bishop on d7 as his own rook would then be loose on c1. What has he overlooked?



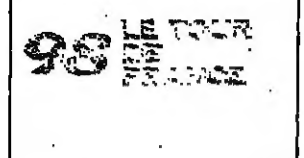
Solution on page 50

CYCLING: SCANDAL OF DRUG SEIZURE CONTINUES TO HAUNT LEADING TEAM

Festina manager ordered out

FROM JEREMY WHITTLE
IN CHATEAUXROUX

IN A packed press conference in the stage-five start village of Cholet yesterday morning, Jean-Marie Leblanc, the Tour de France director, announced that Bruno Roussel, the Festina team manager, had been effectively thrown out of the race by cycling's governing body, the Union Cycliste Internationale, after the recent doping scandal surrounding the leading



French team. The Festina team management, headed by Roussel, who, together with Eric Ryckaert, the team doctor, was detained overnight by French police officers in Cholet, has been implicated by Willy Voet, the team masseur, after the seizure of steroids and EPO, the growth hormone, which were found by customs officers in a Festina team car last week.

"The executive committee of the UCI has decided to provisionally ban Bruno Roussel from holding a directeur sportif's licence," Leblanc said. "The committee decided that the evidence is sufficient for a provisional suspension of his licence."

"The UCI understood the need to take urgent measures to restore public confidence. Priority has to be given to the general interest." The Festina riders competing in the Tour are, though, unlikely to face any further action from the UCI or the Tour organisation itself. "The riders have committed no infraction against the UCI's anti-doping rules," Leblanc said.

As the Tour continued, Ryckaert denied any knowledge of banned substances and spoke of his shock at revelations published in the French and Belgian press,



The Festina riders Laurent Brochard, left, Richard Virenque, centre, and Laurent Defaux face the press yesterday

even though he was subject to investigation by Belgian police last winter.

"Nine months ago the police came to my offices in Ghent to look at my computer database, and not to look for the products that have been mentioned by others," Ryckaert said. "That all came about following the accusations of a Belgian pharmacist who stated that I'd been buying quantities of EPO. If that had ever been the case, I hardly think I'd be a free man now."

Ryckaert, who has been closely linked to Voet in the pages of Belgian newspapers, reiterated his denial of any wrongdoing or involvement in the administration of banned substances.

"I'm against doping," he said. "That much, I think, is clear. But there are questions

you must ask yourself on the definition of doping. For myself, in the role of a doctor, I want to know where medical treatments end and where doping begins."

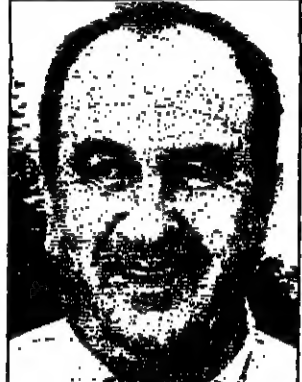
Michel Gros, Festina's assistant team manager, has now taken charge of the team, while Miguel Moreno, their third coach, is flying to France from Toledo in Spain to act as his assistant.

"I believe in the innocence and good conduct of Bruno Roussel," Miguel Rodriguez, the Festina watch company's proprietor, said yesterday. "Our riders have nothing to be reproached for. There's no question of us pulling out of the Tour de France and now we will let French justice do its work."

Despite the UCI's decision to suspend Roussel, the affair

shows little sign of abating, after further comments came from Dr Jean-Paul Escande, of the Cochin Hospital in Paris.

"The doping products seized in this affair are well known to



Moreno: flying in

specialists," he said. "Festina are probably not the only team to use these products."

EPO, which is used to enrich the blood and is the most controversial of the products seized in the Festina affair, is considered to be among the most dangerous of banned substances presently available.

The use of blood doping products, such as EPO, has been widely linked to a series of cardiac problems thought to have afflicted several professional cyclists throughout the past eight seasons.

"To avoid complications, athletes are obliged to exercise regularly to boost their circulation," Dr Escande said. "One hotelier told me that one night, at three in the morning, he found a whole team exercising in their rooms."

Cipollini cuts a late dash

MARIO CIPOLLINI overcame his run of bad luck and survived a three-man crash in the finishing straight to claim his first win in the Tour de France this year at the climax of the fifth stage in Chateauroux.

In a wild and bad-tempered sprint to the line, the Italian sprinter was boxed in by Erik Zabel, of Germany, but Cipollini, who has already produced a number of falls, produced his familiar finishing burst to power past the Deutsche Telekom rider inside the closing 200 metres.

"It was very nervous and tense today," Cipollini said, "but that's what the Tour de

France is all about. Even third or fourth is a good result in this race and lots of riders are trying to get up to the front all the time. That's why there are so many crashes."

On a wet and windy day, Stuart O'Grady, of Australia, the overnight race leader, was one of the fallers on a right-hand bend as the race approached the second intermediate sprint at Loudun after 80 kilometres.

The GAN rider, who suffered cuts and grazes to his side, was able to continue after a bike change and treatment to his left hip and knee.

Ahead of him, three breakaway hopefuls, Fabio Roscioli, of Italy, Thierry Gouvenou, of France, and Aart Vierhouten, the Dutchman, fought against the crosswinds and drizzle to build a lead of four minutes before the main field reeled them in 13 kilometres from Chateauroux, and then the sprinters again came to the fore.

O'Grady, who retained the yellow jersey, said: "It was a difficult day. I fell hard, but luckily I didn't break anything so I was able to carry on. But I feel pretty tired today, so I don't think I'll be able to hold the lead after the time trial on Saturday."



Cipollini celebrates after his first stage win of the Tour

Lloyds Bank Interest Rates for Business Customers

LLOYDS BANK BASE RATE

Effective from 4 June 1998	7.50% per annum
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MORTGAGES

Band	% Per Month	Equiv. Annual Rate %
A	1.08	12.96
B	0.91	10.92
C	0.87	10.44

OVERDRAFTS

Band	% Per Month	Equiv. Annual Rate %
A (and Standard)	1.05	12.60
B	0.97	11.64
C	0.88	10.56
D	0.84	10.08
Unauthorised	2.00	24.00

LOANS

Band	% Per Month	Equiv. Annual Rate %
Flexible Business Loan, Business Loan and Farm Loan - Standard	1.08	12.96
Flexible Business Loan, Business Loan and Farm Loan - Preferential	0.91	10.92
Small Business Loan - Standard	1.18	14.16
Managed - Small Business Loan	1.08	12.96

INTEREST EARNING ACCOUNTS

Premier Interest Account	Gross Rate %	Gross CAR %
£250,000+	6.05	6.22
£100,000+	5.85	6.01
£25,000+	5.60	5.75
£10,000+	5.20	5.35

(No interest is paid on balances below £10,000.)

Business Reserve Account	Gross Rate %	Gross CAR %
£10,000+	5.05	5.15
Below £10,000	4.70	4.78

Business Call Account	Gross Rate %	Gross CAR %
£250,000+	4.85	4.75
£50,000+	4.45	4.54
£10,000+	4.10	4.18
£1,000+	3.80	3.87
Below £1,000	3.55	3.61

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Gross Rate - does not take into account deduction of tax at the lower rate. This is shown for illustrative purposes only. Certain customers may be able to reclaim the tax from the Inland Revenue.

Net Rate - the rate of interest after the deduction of tax at the lower rate. This is shown for illustrative purposes only. Certain customers may be able to reclaim the tax from the Inland Revenue.

Gross CAR - compounded annual rate when full monthly, quarterly, or half-yearly interest is received.

Business Call Account and Premier Interest Account interest is paid monthly.

Business Reserve Account interest is paid quarterly.

These rates of interest apply with effect from 17 July 1998

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CMP11 (17 July 1998)

TELEVISION CHOICE

Land of magic and mystery

The First Night of the Proms
BBC2, 7.30pm

Music, magic and mystery, some of the themes of the 1998 Prom season, are powerfully exemplified in the opening night performance of Berlioz's *The Damnation of Faust*, transmitted live from the Albert Hall. It is one of ten of the 73 concerts that will be televised, culminating in the last night jollies in September. Inspired by the Goethe version of the Faust story, Berlioz's vibrant score is an appropriate choice for the Proms: being intended for the concert hall rather than the opera house. Bryn Terfel sings Mephistopheles, with David Rendall in the title role and Ann Murray as Faust's lover, Marguerite. James Naughtie presents the evening, which includes an interval film exploring treatments of Hellfire and damnation in literature and painting.



James Naughtie presents the Proms from the Albert Hall (7.30pm)

Lonely Planet
Channel 4, 8.00pm

New Mexico, Arizona and Nevada, according to Justice Shapiro, cover more than one-fifth of the United States. As Shapiro manages to cover much of all three in the space of a half-hour programme, it follows that we are not allowed to linger very long in one place. Sometimes this may be for the good. When Shapiro dismisses Santa Fe as one of the most touristy cities she has ever visited, we cannot blame her for moving on. But she may have been turned against the place by staying in a hostel where guests were expected to do the chores. The nearest Shapiro gets to becoming a conventional tourist is by taking a helicopter ride over the Grand Canyon. Otherwise it is the usual *Lonely Planet* recipe of seeking out the offbeat and eccentric and travelling modestly, in this case by a gas-guzzling old banger that soon breaks down.

Friends
Channel 4, 9.00pm

It is a shock to be reminded in stray bits of dialogue which surface tonight, that the New York Six have jobs, for we never catch them doing any work on the screen. Hands up those who have seen Monica in her chef's uniform, Phoebe as a masseuse or Ross practising paleontology. They all seem to be permanently at home, or in the cafe, with plenty of

time on their hands to indulge in the sort of trivial pursuits which make the show what it is. Thus Joey, the actor presumably resting between jobs, is making an enormous meal of trying to sell his entertainment career to a potential employer, while Phoebe is convinced that a cat which gets into her guitar case embodies the spirit of her dead mother. And there is the usual excursion into romance as Monica dates a man who once two-timed Rachel, and wishes that she hadn't bothered.

South Park
Channel 4, 11.40pm

Those who found the first episode of this quirky animated show puzzling should have less difficulty tonight. Things start to fall into place the second time around and despite the efforts of the animators to make them look like identical twins, the four eight-year-olds at the heart of the show are, starting to assume separate identities. A clear plot helps and there can be none more straightforward than Eric Cartman (he's the fat one) winning a school essay competition and looking forward to receiving his prize from a visiting celebrity. Except that the weird schoolmaster with the glove puppet decides to right a past wrong by setting out to assassinate the town's star guru. It is the cue for this amusingly tasteless show to squeeze a joke out of what happened in Dallas on that fateful day in November 1963. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

First Night of the Proms
Radio 3, 7.30pm

Tonight's opener and the *Last Night of the Proms* are the traditional bookends on a shelf that has been thrusted at us by the BBC in recent years, with poor old Henry Wood—well, poor dead Henry Wood would be more accurate—removed from the title. Thus the *Henry Wood Promenade Concerts* have given way to *BBC Proms 98*. Wood's huge achievement remains honoured in the music and Proms director Nicholas Kenyon, who continues in that role even though he is cast by the controller of Radio 3, has survived caustic attacks "brought on by the inclusion of work by composers who are not actually deceased." The *Damnation of Faust* by Berlioz, opens the season.

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zolt Easi 8.00am Simon Mayo 12.00am Jayne Middlemiss 12.30pm Newswatch 12.45 Jayne Middlemiss 2.00pm Mark Radcliffe 4.00pm Dave Pearce 5.45pm News 10.00pm News 10.05pm World Business Report 10.15pm The Learning World 10.30pm Speaking of English 10.45pm Sports Roundup 11.00pm Newswatch 11.30pm Assignment 12.00pm Newswatch 12.30pm Focus on Faith 1.00pm News (645 only) News in German 1.05pm World Business Report 1.15pm Britain Today 1.30pm Soccer Live 2.00pm Newswatch 2.05pm News 2.10pm Outlook 3.30pm Multitrack: Alternative 4.00pm News 4.05pm Football Extra 4.15pm Songs of Home 4.30pm Science in Action (645 only) News in German 5.00pm Europe Today 5.30pm World Business Report 5.45pm Britain Today 5.55pm News 6.15pm News 6.30pm News 6.45pm News in German (645 only) 6.45pm Sports Roundup 7.00pm Newswatch 7.30pm Focus on Faith 8.00pm News 8.05pm Outlook 8.25pm Focus on Thought 8.30pm Newswatch: Alternative 9.00pm Newswatch 10.00pm News 10.05pm World Business Report 10.15pm Britain Today 10.30pm People and Politics 11.00pm Newswatch 11.30pm Insight 11.45pm Sports Roundup 12.00pm News 12.05pm Outlook 12.30pm Multitrack: Alternative 1.00pm Newswatch 1.30pm From the Weeklies 1.45pm Britain Today 2.00pm Newswatch 2.30pm Songs of Home 2.45pm Soccer Live 3.00pm Newswatch 3.30pm People and Politics 4.00pm News 4.05pm World Business Report 4.15pm Sports Roundup 4.30pm Insight 4.45pm Off the Shelf

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30am Wake Up to Wogan 8.30am Ken Bruce 12.10pm Jimmy Young 12.30pm Ed Stewart 1.05pm John Durn 7.00pm Disney's Women: Julie Andrews discusses her role in *Mary Poppins* 7.30pm Friday Night is Music Night 8.25pm Cochrane 8.30pm Let's Listen to the Band 10.00pm David Jacobs 10.30pm Sheridan Morley 12.05pm Jeff Owen 4.00pm Jackie O'Grady

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00am Brian Hayes: Topical phone-in, plus Euronews 12.00pm The Midday News: Headlines from around the world and Monogamy, with Jane Garvey 1.00pm The Open: The second of the 10th Open Golf Championship from Royal Birkdale 8.00pm Friday Sport: The night's action, including Rugby League: Halifax: Salford v Sheffield Eagles 10.00pm Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night

VIRGIN RADIO

7.00am Jonathan Ross 10.00pm Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00pm Robin Banks 7.00pm Johnny Boy's Wheels of Steel 11.00pm Jersey Live Grace 2.00am Howard Pearce

TALK RADIO

6.30am The New Talk Radio Breakfast 9.00am Scott Chisholm 12.00pm Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 3.00pm Sport 5.00pm Danny Kelly and Danny Baker 7.00pm World Cup Phone-in 8.00pm Sport 10.00pm Mike Allen 2.00am Mike Dickinson

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Petroc Treleavy: Handel (Organ Concerto in F, Op 4 No 4)
9.00am Masterworks, with Peter Hobbday, Chabrier (Overture: Gwendoline); W.P. Bach (Duet in G, BWV 1027); Mozart (Capriccio)
10.30am Artist of the Week: Thomas Hampson
11.00am Sound Stories: Instrumental Revolutionaries. Richard Baker profiles the Chicago-born classical composer of the Chicago School.
12.00pm Composer of the Week: Rameau
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. Live from the Octagon, Exeter, the last of this week's series of lunchtime concerts. The concertmaster and conductor John Carewe are joined by the narrators Linda Morrison and Thomas Allen in a performance of one of the settings of Edith Sitwell's verse. Spade which launched William Walton's career, introduced by Rodney Stafford
2.00pm The BBC Archive: Allport Quartet. Recordings of one of this country's oldest string quartets.
3.00pm Music by Star City. The orchestra, plus Dvořák's String Quartet in G. With Rodney Stafford, double bass
4.00pm Music Restored: Luke Skywalker introduces a studio session by the Canadian bass viol duo Les Vols Humaines (r)
TODAY: Sixth stage (La Chaire à Brève, 204.5m)

RADIO 4

6.00am Today, with John Humphrys and Sue MacGregor. Includes 6.55, 7.55 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sports News 7.45 Thought for the Day
8.35 (LW) Weather in Parliament 9.00am Desert Island Discs: Jack Straw, MP (r)
9.45 Serial: A Boy from the Hogarth Press (r)
10.00am (LW) Desert Island Discs
10.00am News: Women's hour
11.00am News: The Garden Summer. The second of four portraits exploring the changing nature of the garden through the passage of the seasons (r)
11.30am (LW) News Headlines: Shipping Forecast
12.00pm (LW) News You and Yours, with 1 a
12.00pm (LW) News and Mark Whitaker 12.55pm Weather
1.00pm (LW) News Headlines: Shipping Forecast
1.30pm The World at One, with James Cox
1.50pm Who Goes There? Martin Young quizzes Francis Whelan, Claire Peller, Roy Hattersley and Fred Hoggson on the lives of the famous
2.00pm News: The Archers (r)
2.15pm Afternoon Plays: Unwritten Law—A Bunch of Twigs. Helena Kennedy, CC, presents a dramatised feature about the first appeal against biching on the Isle of Man. With David Antrous and Gwyneth Hearn
3.00pm News: Veg Talk. Charlie Hicks and Greg Wallace address listeners' questions about fruit and vegetables. With the guest chef Martin Spiller and the organic gardener Lydia Brown
3.30pm A View with a Room: The George Hotel, London
3.45pm Feedback. Chris Dunford with listeners' letters
4.00pm News: Open Book. Humphrey Carpenter turns the lion, travelogue pages of backpack classics, and tries out a range of guides to identifying trees and wild flowers (r)

RADIO 4

4.30pm The Message. Alex Brodie and guests look at how current media trends affect the way we think
5.00pm PM 5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast 5.57pm Weather 6.00pm Six O'Clock News
6.30pm STTP. The Australian comedian Mark Little chairs the news-based improvisation game. With John Moloney and Ed Byrne
7.00pm News: The Archers
7.15pm Front Row. John Wilson presents the night's arts programme
7.45pm One Roof: School's Out, by Wendy Lee, based on the original story by Michele Hanson. With Paula Donohue, Linda Dore and Lucia Bradshaw-White (55) (r)
8.00pm News: Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby is joined in Pudding, Northumberland, by David Bunkett, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, and Bea Campbell, broadcaster and journalist
8.45pm Letter from America
9.00pm News: The Friday Play: Bones, by Bonnie Greer. In February 1997, the bones of 60 slaves were unearthed on the North Devon coast. A young black reporter is sent to cover the story. With Tony Armstrong, Aida Parsons and Amanda Gordon
10.00pm The World Tonight
10.45pm Book at Bedtime: Setting the World on Fire, by Michael Wilton. Read by Simon Russell Beale (10/10)
11.00pm Late Night on 4: Late Tackle. Martin Bashir meets golfers and golf lovers for a special hour-long programme from the Open at Royal Birkdale
11.30pm (LW) Today in Parliament
12.00pm News: The Late Book: Every Secret Thing. Gillian Slovo reads the first part of her recollections of a South African upbringing of secrecy and trauma (55)
12.45pm Shipping Forecast 1.00am As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.8-99.5; RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2; RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4; RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 685, 925. WORLD SERVICE, MW 600, 630, 660, 690, 720, 750, 780, 810, 840, 870, 900, 930, 960, 990, 1020, 1050, 1080, 1110, 1140, 1170, 1200, 1230, 1260, 1290, 1320, 1350, 1380, 1410, 1440, 1470, 1500, 1530, 1560, 1590, 1620, 1650, 1680, 1710, 1740, 1770, 1800, 1830, 1860, 1890, 1920, 1950, 1980, 2010, 2040, 2070, 2100, 2130, 2160, 2190, 2220, 2250, 2280, 2310, 2340, 2370, 2400, 2430, 2460, 2490, 2520, 2550, 2580, 2610, 2640, 2670, 2700, 2730, 2760, 2790, 2820, 2850, 2880, 2910, 2940, 2970, 3000, 3030, 3060, 3090, 3120, 3150, 3180, 3210, 3240, 3270, 3300, 3330, 3360, 3390, 3420, 3450, 3480, 3510, 3540, 3570, 3600, 3630, 3660, 3690, 3720, 3750, 3780, 3810, 3840, 3870, 3900, 3930, 3960, 3990, 4020, 4050, 4080, 4110, 4140, 4170, 4200, 4230, 4260, 4290, 4320, 4350, 4380, 4410, 4440, 4470, 4500, 4530, 4560, 4590, 4620, 4650, 4680, 4710, 4740, 4770, 4800, 4830, 4860, 4890, 4920, 4950, 4980, 5010, 5040, 5070, 5100, 5130, 5160, 5190, 5220, 5250, 5280, 5310, 5340, 5370, 5400, 5430, 5460, 5490, 5520, 5550, 5580, 5610, 5640, 5670, 5700, 5730, 5760, 5790, 5820, 5850, 5880, 5910, 5940, 5970, 6000, 6030, 6060, 6090, 6120, 6150, 6180, 6210, 6240, 6270, 6300, 6330, 6360, 6390, 6420, 6450, 6480, 6510, 6540, 6570, 6600, 6630, 6660, 6690, 6720, 6750, 6780, 6810, 6840, 6870, 6900, 6930, 6960, 6990, 7020, 7050, 7080, 7110, 7140, 7170, 7200, 7230, 7260, 7290, 7320, 7350, 7380, 7410, 7440, 7470, 7500, 7530, 7560, 7590, 7620, 7650, 7680, 7710, 7740, 7770, 7800, 7830, 7860, 7890, 7920, 7950, 7980, 8010, 8040, 8070, 8100, 8130, 8160, 8190, 8220, 8250, 8280, 8310, 8340, 8370, 8400, 8430, 8460, 8490, 8520, 8550, 8580, 8610, 8640, 8670, 8700, 8730, 8760, 8790, 8820, 8850, 8880, 8910, 8940, 8970, 9000, 9030, 9060, 9090, 9120, 9150, 9180, 9210, 9240, 9270, 9300, 9330, 9360, 9390, 9420, 9450, 9480, 9510, 9540, 9570, 9600, 9630, 9660, 9690, 9720, 9750, 9780, 9810, 9840, 9870, 9900, 9930, 9960, 9990, 10020, 10050, 10080, 10110, 10140, 10170, 10200, 10230, 10260, 10290, 10320, 10350, 10380, 10410, 10440, 10470, 10500, 10530, 10560, 10590, 10620, 10650, 10680, 10710, 10740, 10770, 10800, 10830, 10860, 10890, 10920, 10950, 10980, 11010, 11040, 11070, 11100, 11130, 11160, 11190, 11220, 11250, 11280, 11310, 11340, 11370, 11400, 11430, 11460, 11490, 11520, 11550, 11580, 11610, 11640, 11670, 11700, 11730, 11760, 11790, 11820, 11850, 11880, 11910, 11940, 11970, 12000, 12030, 12060, 12090, 12120, 12150, 12180, 12210, 12240, 12270, 12300, 12330, 12360, 12390, 12420, 12450, 12480, 12510, 12540, 12570, 12600, 12630, 12660, 12690, 12720, 12750, 12780, 12810, 12840, 12870, 12900, 12930, 12960, 12990, 13020, 13050, 13

More to sleep than you would ever dream

Sleep fascinates me, probably because, like most contemporary working adults, I never seem to get enough of it. So I was looking forward to *The Dreaming Brain*, the first of Channel 4's new Secrets of Sleep series.

And there was some fascinating material. I had not realised, for instance, that the brain actually paralyses your body during REM (rapid eye-movement) sleep, probably a protective device designed to prevent early mammals from getting up and hurting themselves off cliffs, while dreaming that they were pterodactyls.

Nor had I realised that the bizarre and devastating condition known as narcolepsy occurs when the slightest excitement triggers this slighest, even when sufferers are awake, causing them to fall to the floor like puppets whose strings have been cut. The sight of two narcoleptic dogs collapsing in a heap as soon as they started to

inspect each other's undercarriages was truly pitiful, although the condition could prove a reliable method of birth-control.

If we are deprived of REM sleep, the dreams will occur spontaneously while we are awake. (That happens all the time to some of us anyway.) Dreaming probably has the psychological function of helping us to face anxieties, confront fears and sort out possible solutions. During dreams our brains switch off the late-evolutionary rational zones and just concentrate on primitive emotions, shaping dramas out of our gut feelings.

Our brains may become more active than they are when awake, and become sensitive to changes in our bodies so that our dreams may respond to medical conditions as yet undiagnosed. We can dream about things before our conscious mind has any idea that they have happened.

But in other respects this was a

frustrating documentary. People sleeping don't generally make for very exciting television. We had a lot of talking medical heads, some scratchy black-and-white archive material and plenty of fuzzy screen sequences to depict dreams.

Perhaps to compensate, an air of eerie foreboding was carefully nurtured, not least by the quietly sonorous voiceover. The programme constantly teased us with the feeling that it was about to turn into an episode of *The X Files*. Were we about to learn that during REM sleep we have the ability to communicate with aliens? (I shouldn't joke about that. There are probably 16 rival groups in Utah alone who believe precisely that, and will swear blind that they have already done it.)

But in this episode at least, most of the revelations seemed distinctly familiar. Didn't I know already that REM sleep is where you do

REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

the serious dreaming? That it is the bit where only your eyes move? Hasn't humankind always known that dreaming helps us to cope with emotional disturbance, and that sleep "knits up the ravelled sleeve of care"? Or did I just dream it? Spokey!

There were ravelling sleeves coming out of the characters' ears in the final episode of Imogen's Face (ITV). In fact Andrea New-

man is a heavyweight travelling champion. Her stories are tangles of emotional spaghetti, formed from the pasta of raw human emotion.

Actually the tangles all seem to boil down to one main cause, which is that nearly all the characters are terrible liars. They are terrible both in the sense that they lie to each other when it would make much more sense to tell the truth and in the sense that they always seem to get caught.

The plot therefore consists of a rapid sequence of emotional time bombs exploding, as X finds out that Y is pregnant by someone else (Z) who isn't even W's baby after all, although she did have it off with V while P was off pretending to look after Q, but actually having a dirty weekend with X. No sooner is one slave of care painfully knitted up again, than a new time bomb goes off and ravelis it all over again.

Like *Secrets of Sleep*, this programme promised an air of the weird and supernatural. The first episode, in fact, featured a dream sequence in which plainish Amanda (Lia Williams) saw not her own reflection, but that of her sister Imogen (Samantha Janus), who is, as they say in the red-tops, a bit of a "stunner". The title sequence culminated in a shot of Ms Janus flashing her huge eyes at us in a decidedly supernatural way. And that eerie little piano motif kept popping up.

All of this proved irrelevant, however, since the series was yet another convoluted domestic drama. It did have a theme, however, which gelled more strongly as the story progressed. This was to do with the emotional problems caused when couples split and end up raising children, not all of whom are their own offspring, but since the em-

phasis was all on the impulsive passions, it got a bit lost.

Anybody who finds all of this too tiresome to bother with should get their spouse or partner to wake them up during the later phases of REM sleep. You should find your own vivid little mini-drama, sufficed with surreal images and personally tailored to your psychological needs, still fresh in your mind.

Finally, I was glad to welcome the return of *Third Rock from the Sun* to BBC2, for a series new to terrestrial television. I would probably watch it for the deliciously silly title graphics alone, in which stars and planets bounce around like bendy bagatelle balls to the accompaniment of twanging, 1950s rock music. Roseanne's guest appearance in an implausible role-reversal as a goody-goody 1950s housewife was a perfect complement to the old-fashioned cornball humour. Dream on.

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (82340)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (68814)
- 9.00 All Over the Shop (T) (8568291)
- 9.25 Kilroy (T) (8143430)
- 10.00 Meet the Challenge Debbie Flint presents the D1 game show (5618415)
- 10.25 Style Challenge Classics Compilation from the last three series (5763104)
- 10.55 Short Chances DIY tips (1487949)
- 11.00 News (T) regional news and weather (5910682)
- 11.05 Pole to Pole Michael Palin travels through Tanzania to Ujj (T) (8899758)
- 11.55 News (T) (8068494)
- 12.00 Every Second Counts (T) (49388)
- 12.30pm Golf: The Open Further action from the second day from Royal Birkdale. Continues on BBC2 at 1.00pm (58814)
- 1.00 News (T) and weather (82901)
- 1.30 Regional News (T) (1580499)
- 1.40 Neighbours (T) (4923123)
- 2.05 Perry Mason: The Case of the Scandalous Scoundrel Raymond Burr as the crusading attorney investigates the murder of a sleazy magazine publisher (T) (9948930)
- 3.35 Noddy (785755) 3.45 Playdays (5397524) 4.05 Popeye (2633340) 4.10 Bailey Kipper's POV (9107562) 4.35 The Mask (3051543)
- 5.00 Newsworld Euro-Staral 13-year-old girl goes on patrol in the English Channel with the Royal Navy (T) (3903882)
- 5.10 Record Breakers (T) (6504123)
- 5.25 Neighbours (T) (T) (252727)
- 6.00 News (T) and weather (475)
- 6.30 Regional News (T) (727)
- 7.00 Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook: Coronation Street stars Angela Griffin and Charlie Lawson challenge Jeremy Hurrell and Phil Vickery to prepare a meal from mystery ingredients (T) (4399)
- 7.30 Top of the Pops: Jamie Theakston introduces Billie: Another Level: Eagle Eye Cherry and Garbage (T) (611)
- 8.00 Uncle Buck (1989) John Candy stars as a good-natured slob called on to look after his trouble-making nephew and niece while their parents are away. Also starring Macaulay Culkin. Written and directed by John Hughes. Continued after the News (T) (7251)
- 9.00 News (T) and weather (8814)
- 9.30 FILM: Uncle Buck Conclusion of tonight's film (T) (85678)
- 10.00 Golf: The Open Steve Rider reviews day two at Royal Birkdale (284746)
- 10.45 The Outlaw Josey Wales (1976) Western set in the aftermath of the American Civil War, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood as a peaceful farmer who turns vigilante to avenge the murder of his family by Union soldiers. Also with Sondra Locke (T) (1898307)
- 12.55am The Asphyx (1972) With Robert Stephens, Robert Powell and Jane Lapointe Supernatural thriller following the experiments of a 19th-century scientist. Directed by Peter Newbrook (T) (1934079)
- 2.10 Weather (9223844)
- 2.15 BBC News (922473)

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BBC2

- 6.10am The Learning Zone: Age and Identity (888291)
- 7.00 Teletubbies (T) (1723272) 7.25 Dink, the Little Dinosaur (T) (142307) 7.50 Cartoon Citters (T) (447972) 8.15 Willy Fog (T) (2339562) 8.35 Spot (5903543) 8.45 The Record (2000530)
- 9.10 Hawkeye (T) (3283962) 9.50 Cartoon (8204165)
- 10.00 Teletubbies (48833)
- 10.30 Golf: The Open Steve Rider introduces live coverage of the early stages of the second round from Britain's foremost golf tournament from Royal Birkdale. Coverage continues on BBC1 at 12.30pm (54098)
- 12.30pm Working Lunch Financial and business reports from the City (63458)
- 1.00 Golf: The Open Steve Rider introduces further coverage from the links at Royal Birkdale as the second 18 holes draw to a close leading up to tonight's halfway cut. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Alex Hay and Mike Hargreaves (811508)
- 7.30 The First Night of the Proms Coverage from the Albert Hall of Beethoven's *The Damnation of Faust*, a dramatic and colourful interpretation of the legendary conflict between good and evil. The performers include Richard Margison as Faust, Bryn Terfel as Mephistopheles and Ann Murray as Marguerite. With the BBC Singers, New London Children's Choir and BBC Symphony Orchestra under Andrew Davis. In the interval, James Naughtie considers how traditional notions of Hell have influenced other musicians, poets and painters (T) (83014765)
- NE: Subsequent programmes are subject to delay and alteration**
- 10.20 Animated 2 Mario Cavalli's *Boles*, which uses computer-generated images, and Keesee Schrijvers' award-winning film *Chlorine d'ore*, featuring hand-painted techniques (T) (73811)
- 10.30 Newsworld Gordon Brewer presents a comprehensive round-up of the day's headlines (T) (70836)
- 11.15 Jungle Fever (1991) The director Spike Lee's racial drama, starring Wesley Snipes, Anabella Sciorra, Anthony Quinn and Samuel L. Jackson. Out of sexual curiosity, a successful African-American architect embarks on a perilous affair with an Italian-American secretary, while realising the tension it will cause between their respective communities (T) (7284307)
- 1.25am Sports: Above and Beyond The 58th visit a moon orbiting the Chig home world to place strategic guidance equipment on the eve of a massive Earth offensive - but they are not alone (T) (7) (4748188)
- 2.05 Weather (9224673)



Wesley Snipes embarks on a reckless affair (11.15pm)

HTV

- 6.00am GMTV (1273611)
- 9.25 Extreme Dinosaurs (T) (8572494)
- 9.50 Judge Judy (T) (4800611)
- 10.20 Regional News (T) (776524)
- 10.30 The Broken Cord (1992) True-life drama starring Jimmy Smits about the struggle to raise an adopted Native American child with total alcohol syndrome. Directed by Ken Olin (95062123)
- 12.20pm Regional News (4046953)
- 12.30 News (T) and weather (50982)
- 1.00 Surprise Chefs (64389) 1.30 Twigg's People (95253) 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (708253)
- 2.45 WALE: What's My Line? (739949)
- 2.45 Garden Calendar (739949)
- 3.15 News (T) (1447291)
- 3.20 Regional News and weather (1444104)
- 3.25 Tote TV (T) (1434727) 3.35 Big Bag (7831185) 3.50 Animal Stories (4533235) 3.55 EBU Drama: Hungry (T) (811114)
- 4.15 Sabrina the Teenage Witch (T) (819101) 4.40 Get Wet (T) (485624)
- 5.10 A Country Practice (5580017)
- 5.40 News (T) and weather (168949)
- 6.00 Catchphrase (561388)
- 6.25 WALE: Wales Tonight (742982)
- 6.25 HTV Weather (105494)
- 6.30 The West Tonight (123)
- 7.00 Take Your Pick (T) (2765)
- 7.30 Coronation Street Greg and Sally's relationship becomes closer (T) (307)
- 8.00 The Bill Bech and Carver are divided in their approach to the theft of an elderly woman's grandchild clock (T) (8165)
- 8.30 Kavanagh QC Kavanagh has to work hard to nail a suspected drugs dealer and learn that it doesn't always pay to believe your own witnesses (T) (88307)
- 10.00 News at Ten (T) and weather (35185)
- 10.30 Regional News and weather (812358)
- 10.45 WALE: Secret of Success Nicola Heywood-Thorne accompanies former MP Neil Hamilton on a visit to his old Welsh school and college (T) (182843)
- 10.45 The Talent Trail The second of six talent contest heats (182843)
- 11.15 The Drew Carey Show (553123)
- 11.40 Renegade (565543)
- 12.40am Nash Bridges (T) (8388215)
- 1.25 Club@vision (8559578)
- 2.15 War of the Worlds (T) (5688225)
- 3.05 Cybernet (90762741)
- 3.35 We Can Work It Out (T) (1639305)
- 4.00 Ed's Night Party (T) (6945498)
- 4.25 Coach (T) (59944942)
- 4.45 TV Nightvision (7826021)
- 5.00 Coronation Street (T) (T) (71128)
- 5.30 News (95654)



Sally Whitaker and Stephen Billington star (7.30pm)

CENTRAL

- As HTV West except:
- 1.00pm Special Babies (64369)
- 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (4098933)
- 2.45-3.15 Coping with Families (739949)
- 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5558017)
- 6.00 News and Ten (561388)
- 6.25-7.00 Central News (742982)
- 10.40 FILM: Blaze (4744455)
- 12.40am Beyond Reality (8388215)
- 2.20 Robocop (5398166)
- 3.10 World Football (1960682)
- 3.35 Vanessa (6702272)
- 4.15 Central Jobfinder '98 (9519215)
- 5.20 Asian Eye (843925)
- As HTV West except:
- 12.15pm-12.30 News (2751814)
- 1.00 On Foot (64369)
- 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (4098933)
- 2.45-3.15 Westcountry Update (739949)
- 5.10-5.40 Catchphrase (5558017)
- 6.00-7.00 Westcountry News (86901)
- 10.30 Westcountry News (812388)
- 10.45-11.15 Get Real (182843)
- 11.45 Renegade (866307)
- As HTV West except:
- 10.25am Justice of the Land (765765)
- 11.25 Blue Heelers (6994122)
- 1.00pm-1.30 Shortland Street (54369)
- 2.45-3.15 The Antiques Trail (739949)
- 5.10-5.40 Catchphrase (5558017)
- 6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (68901)
- 10.40 The Football Club (811466)
- 11.10 Members Only (27291)
- 11.40 Midnight Caller (55543)
- 5.00am News (71128)
- As HTV West except:
- 10.25 Justice of the Land (765765)
- 11.25 Blue Heelers (6994122)
- 1.00pm-1.30 Shortland Street (54369)
- 2.45-3.15 The Antiques Trail (739949)
- 5.10-5.40 Catchphrase (5558017)
- 6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (68901)
- 10.40 The Football Club (811466)
- 11.10 Members Only (27291)
- 11.40 Midnight Caller (55543)
- 5.00am News (71128)
- Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (55249) 9.00 FILM: With a Song in My Heart (52970307) 11.30 The Three Stooges (930662) 11.50 Here's One I Made Earlier (2017) 12.00pm Ricki Lake (32098) 12.30 Sesame Street (58524) 1.00 Slot Methrin (40564748) 1.15 Tomes y Tams (45042901) 1.30 Collectors' Club (4225949) 1.55 FILM: Twice Around the Sun (776307) 3.30 Watercolour Challenge (801) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One: The Big Winners (956) 4.30 Montel Williams (272) 5.00 & Pump (4253) 5.30 Countdown (272) 6.00 Newsworld (6) 6.25 Countdown (272) 6.50 Newsworld (6) 7.00 Del a Tom (6727) 8.30 Newsworld (8562) 9.00 Tour De France (1524) 9.30 Friends (7838) 10.00 Brookside (567678) 10.35 So Graham Norton (701123) 11.15 South Park (132448) 11.45 Babylon 5 (854949) 12.40am King of the Hill (129783) 1.10 FILM: Legend of Fong Sai Yuk (531762) 3.05 FILM: The Scars of Dracula (91212)

CHANNEL 4

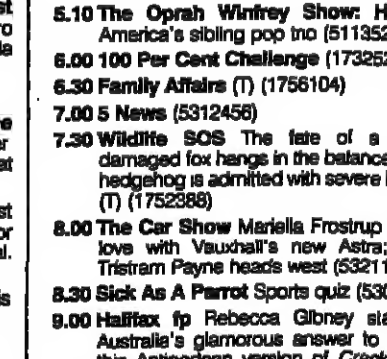
- 6.00am Sesame Street (15578)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (T) (52524)
- 9.00 With a Song in My Heart (1952, b/w) Emotional biopic based on the life of the singer Jane Froman (Susan Hayward). Directed by Walter Lang (32970307)
- 11.10 The Three Stooges (b/w) (9306582)
- 11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier: Aubergine and cheese tartare and tomato sauce; roast lamb with rasher sausages and pear flatbreads (T) (2017) 12.00 Sesame Street (32098) 12.30pm Light Lunch: With chef Ross Burden (T) (22475) 1.30 The Living Sea (T) (80123)
- 2.00 Helicopters of the Navy (1957) Second World War adventure with Ronald Reagan, Nathan Janus (T) (65652)
- 3.30 Watercolour Challenge (T) (801) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One: The Big Winners (T) (956)
- 4.30 Countdown (T) (3045882) 4.55 Ricki Lake: I Drink and Drive... So What? (5522185) 5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (272)
- 6.00 Tour de France The 205km from La Chaux de Brive la Gaillarde: fairly flat riding until the last stages which features an undulating drop of nearly 300m (185)
- 6.30 The Cosby Show (T) (765)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News (786974)
- 7.55 The Political Slot (53369)
- Justine Shapiro travels around the southwest of America (8pm)
- 8.00 Lonely Planet: South West USA (2/12) Justine Shapiro visits New Mexico, Arizona and Nevada (T) (6727)
- 8.30 Brookside (T) (8582)
- 9.00 Friends: The One With The Cat Phoebe is convinced her mother's spirit has taken over a stray cat (T) (1524)
- 9.30 Spin City: Family Affair (2/2) Mike must choose between protecting his mother or saving the Mayor from a new scandal. With Michael J. Fox (T) (7868)
- 10.00 Frasier: Space Quest Frasier is desperate for some privacy (T) (33727)
- 10.30 So Graham Norton (T) (778524)
- 11.10 King of the Hill (275833)
- 11.40 South Park: Weightgain school's essay contest and tries to build up his muscles - with disastrous results (T) (873811)
- 12.10am Legend of Fong Sai Yuk (1992) Martial arts drama directed by Yuen Kwai. 5559 8.00 Great Uncle (1981) 8.30 The Scars of Dracula (1970) Christopher Lee returns as Count Dracula, who sets out to trap Dennis Waterman and Jenny Hanley. Directed by Roy Ward Baker (905437)
- 3.30 Body (T) (35425302) 4.10 The Short Cut (T) (33994627) 4.25 Sheila (T) (15337678) 4.35 The Tackle (T) (69150296) 4.50 Tour de France (T) (2522789) 6.30 Tellyoons 5.40-5.55 Insektors (5133692)

CHANNEL 5

- CHANNEL 5 IS NOW BROADCASTING ON TRANSPONDER NO 63 ON THE Astra Satellite.** Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz
- 8.00am 5 News and sport (3519475)
- 7.00 WideWorld (T) (1509582) 7.30 Milkshake! (5691541) 7.55 Wind in the Willows (T) (4245491) 8.00 Hiveskazo (3716458) 8.30 Dappledawn Farm (3715727) 9.00 Secret Lives (T) (T) (3739307) 9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (T) (6014017) 10.20 Sunset Beach (T) (4980291) 11.10 Loeza (T) (8300185)
- 12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (3715455) 12.30pm Family Affairs (T) (T) (3558358) 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (1608893) 1.30 Sons and Daughters (3553359) 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (5301340) 2.30 Open House with Gloria Hunniford. With today's guest Dale Winlon (8261253)
- 3.30 Coins in the Fountain (TVM, 1990) Lori Anderson, Stephanie Kramer and Sharna Reed star as three women searching for love in Rome. Directed by Tony Wharmby (1668746)
- 5.10 The Oprah Winfrey Show: Hanson America's sibling poo too (5113524)
- 6.00 100 Per Cent Challenge (1732524)
- 6.30 Family Affairs (T) (1756104)
- 7.00 5 News (512456)
- 7.30 Wildlife SOS The fate of a brain-damaged fox hangs in the balance and a hedgehog is admitted with severe injuries (T) (1755826)
- 8.00 The Car Show Mariella Frostrup falls in love with Vauxhall's new Astra, while Tristram Payne heads west (532104)
- 8.30 Sick As A Parrot Sports quiz (5300611)
- 9.00 Halifax by Rebecca Gibney stars as Australia's glamorous answer to Fliz In this Antipodean version of Cracker. An old friend and fellow psychiatrist enters into an affair with a patient (T) (290850)
- 11.00 C-16 (873017)
- 11.55 Stripper (1985) Docu-drama following the real lives of five women who have chosen to strip for a living. Directed by Jerome Gray (9414123)
- 1.35am A Cry for Help (TVM, 1975) A cynical radio talk show host reacts against time to save the life of a suicidal caller. With Robert Culp. Directed by Daryl Duke (7048457)
- 2.50 Hurt Penguins (1992) A music star is willing to do anything to get a record deal. Directed by Robert Bergman and Myra Fried (796708)
- 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (1135418)
- 5.30 100 Per Cent Challenge (T) (3744128)



Justine Shapiro travels around the southwest of America (8pm)



Taylor, Isaac and Zao Hanson meet Oprah Winfrey (5.10pm)

For further listings see Saturday's Vision

- SKY 1**
- 7.00am Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters (35053) 7.30 Games World (1088014) 7.45 Simpsons (17839) 8.15 On the Border (58259) 8.30 Home (53540) 10.00 Another World (11291) 11.00 Days of Your Lives (56217) 12.00 Manned (58259) 12.30 Space: The Final Frontier (58259) 1.00 General (58259) 1.30 Special (58259) 2.00 Special (58259) 2.30 Special (58259) 3.00 Special (58259) 3.30 Special (58259) 4.00 Special (58259) 4.30 Special (58259) 5.00 Special (58259) 5.30 Special (58259) 6.00 Special (58259) 6.30 Special (58259) 7.00 Special (58259) 7.30 Special (58259) 8.00 Special (58259) 8.30 Special (58259) 9.00 Special (58259) 9.30 Special (58259) 10.00 Special (58259) 10.30 Special (58259) 11.00 Special (58259) 11.30 Special (58259) 12.00 Special (58259) 12.30 Special (58259) 1.00 Special (58259) 1.30 Special (58259) 2.00 Special (58259) 2.30 Special (58259) 3.00 Special (58259) 3.30 Special (58259) 4.00 Special (58259) 4.30 Special (58259) 5.00 Special (58259) 5.30 Special (58259) 6.00 Special (58259) 6.30 Special (58259) 7.00 Special (58259) 7.30 Special (58259) 8.00 Special (58259) 8.30 Special (58259) 9.00 Special (58259) 9.30 Special (58259) 10.00 Special (58259) 10.30 Special (58259) 11.00 Special (58259) 11.30 Special (58259) 12.00 Special (58259) 12.30 Special (58259) 1.00 Special (58259) 1.30 Special (58259) 2.00 Special (58259) 2.30 Special (58259) 3.00 Special (58259) 3.30 Special (58259) 4.00 Special (58259) 4.30 Special (58259) 5.00 Special (58259) 5.30 Special (58259) 6.00 Special (58259) 6.30 Special (58259) 7.00 Special (58259) 7.30 Special (58259) 8.00 Special (58259) 8.30 Special (58259) 9.00 Special (58259) 9.30 Special (58259) 10.00 Special (58259) 10.30 Special (58259) 11.00 Special (58259) 11.30 Special (58259) 12.00 Special (58259) 12.30 Special (58259) 1.00 Special (58259) 1.30 Special (58259) 2.00 Special (58259) 2.30 Special (58259) 3.00 Special (58259) 3.30 Special (58259) 4.00 Special (58259) 4.30 Special (58259) 5.00 Special (58259) 5.30 Special (58259) 6.00 Special (58259) 6.30 Special (58259) 7.00 Special (58259) 7.30 Special (58259) 8.00 Special (58259) 8.30 Special (58259) 9.00 Special (58259) 9.30 Special (58259) 10.00 Special (58259) 10.30 Special (58259) 11.00 Special (58259) 11.30 Special (58259) 12.00 Special (58259) 12.30 Special (58259) 1.00 Special (58259) 1.30 Special (58259) 2.00 Special (58259) 2.30 Special (58259) 3.00 Special (58259) 3.30 Special (58259) 4.00 Special (58259) 4.30 Special (58259) 5.00 Special (58259) 5.30 Special (58259) 6.00 Special (58259) 6.30 Special (58259) 7.00 Special (58259) 7.30 Special (58259) 8.00 Special (58259) 8.30 Special (58259) 9.00 Special (58259) 9.30 Special (58259) 10.00 Special (58259) 10.30 Special (58259) 11.00 Special (58259) 11.30 Special (58259) 12.00 Special (58259) 12.30 Special (58259) 1.00 Special (58259) 1.30 Special (58259) 2.00 Special (58259) 2.30 Special (58259) 3.00 Special (58259) 3.30 Special (58259) 4.00 Special (58259) 4.30 Special (58259) 5.00 Special (58259) 5.30 Special (58259) 6.00 Special (58259) 6.30 Special (58259) 7.00 Special (58259) 7.30 Special (58259) 8.00 Special (58259) 8.30 Special (58259) 9.00 Special (58259) 9.30 Special (58259) 10.00 Special (58259) 10.30 Special (58259) 11.00 Special (58259) 11.30 Special (58259) 12.00 Special (58259) 12.30 Special (58259) 1.00 Special (58259) 1.30 Special (58259) 2.00 Special (58259) 2.30 Special (58259) 3.00 Special (58259) 3.30 Special (58259) 4.00 Special (58259) 4.30 Special (58259) 5.00 Special (58259) 5.30 Special (58259) 6.00 Special (58259) 6.30 Special (58259) 7.00 Special (58259) 7.30 Special (58259) 8.00 Special (58259) 8.30 Special (58259) 9.00 Special (58259) 9.30 Special (58259) 10.00 Special (58259) 10.30 Special (58259) 11.00 Special (58259) 11.30 Special (58259) 12.00 Special (58259) 12.30 Special (58259) 1.00 Special (58259) 1.30 Special (58259) 2.00 Special (58259) 2.30 Special (58259) 3.00 Special (58259) 3.30 Special (58259) 4.00 Special (58259) 4.30 Special (58259) 5.00 Special (58259) 5.30 Special (58259) 6.00 Special (58259) 6.30 Special (58259) 7.00 Special (58259) 7.30 Special (58259) 8.00 Special (58259) 8.30 Special (58259) 9.00 Special (58259) 9.30 Special (58259) 10.00 Special (58259) 10.30 Special (58259) 11.00 Special (58259) 11.30 Special (58259) 12.00 Special (58259) 12.30 Special (58259) 1.00 Special (58259) 1.30 Special (58259) 2.00 Special (58259) 2.30 Special (58259) 3.00 Special (58259)



CRICKET 46, 47

Brown gives Surrey the leading edge

SPORT

FRIDAY JULY 17 1998

CYCLING 50

Pressure grows on Festina over drugs allegations



Woods and Huston lead succession of sub-par rounds on first day of Open Championship

Birkdale defences easily breached

By JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THERE was always the likelihood, even on a course as difficult and one in such outstanding condition as Royal Birkdale, that if the par-70 links were left without anything resembling a decent wind with which to help to defend themselves, then player after player in the 127th Open Championship would heap indignity upon them. This is precisely what happened in the first round yesterday. It was demonstrated once again that competitors pursuing victory in the oldest major championship in the game are no respecters of persons or tradition.

First John Huston and then Tiger Woods brought the course to its knees with 65s, Huston with subtlety, Woods with some bludgeoning hitting. Huston, who used to wear special inserts in his golf shoes until stopped from doing so by the authorities, led the Masters after the first round in 1997, the year that Woods went on to his emphatic victory.

He and Woods started soon after breakfast and all morning there was the thought that perhaps the wind would get up a little after lunch and make the course more testing in the afternoon. But there was no change, and in the benevolent afternoon that followed the benevolent morning, Fred Couples eagled the 15th on his way to a 66, the same score as Loren Roberts and Nick Price. Vijay Singh and David Love III joined Faxon on 67.

Faxon recently discovered that his putter was bent in three places. Having had it straightened out, he had his best putting round of the year, one containing only 23 strokes.

It is time to amend what used to be known among the players as the "Watson par" to the "Faxon par" because Faxon is now outperforming the five-times Open champion



Montgomery scowls after slipping to a disappointing 73

in this department. "My putting is what I live and die for," Faxon said. "At the 6th hole I hit a guy on the butt with my three-iron and the ball shot off 40 yards. I still got my par."

By the end of a long, hot day there were at least 25 men under par. A fact that will concern supporters of the European tour is that Fredrik Jacobson, a Swede, and Robert Allenby, an Australian, are the only ones of the leading ten players to earn a living competing regularly on this continent.

A 65, five under par, is a total that would have been impossible to have achieved on Monday, when the wind blew so strongly and rain squalls thundered into the turf. Ten strokes more would have been a good score. After the conditions they had experienced in practice, and had been forecast for later in the week, the golfers yesterday must have felt like robbers who spend months planning a raid to the minute detail only to find that when they reach the bank the door to the safe has been left open. "It wasn't

really that hard if you kept the ball in play," Couples said.

It was a day with scarcely a breath of wind from the moment dawn broke. The sun burst through in the early morning and at any time during the day it shone on scenes that would have been unbelievable three days earlier. Spectators with faces as red as beetroot were to be seen.

Colin Montgomerie, who seemed to be on course for his best start to an Open when he was two under par after six holes, finished with a disappointing 73, as did José María Olazábal. Lee Westwood could scarcely hole a putt in a round of 71. Though a 72 by Nick Faldo was about par for him these days — and a 71 by Sandy Lyle was significantly better than is usual for him — it was Jacobson, 23, who

Par	Player	Score
-5	J Huston (US)	65
-5	T Woods (US)	65
-4	N Price (Zim)	66
-4	F Couples (US)	66
-4	L Roberts (US)	66
-3	F Jacobson (Swe)	67
-3	B Pepper (US)	67
-3	D Love III (US)	67
-3	V Singh (Ind)	67

demonstrated that competing in his first Open posed no fears. David Howell, in his second Open, continued the good form he has been showing recently with a 68.

There was little indication of what was to come when Huston began with nine consecutive pars to be out in 34, having saved his four by holing a putt of 25 feet on the 1st. That was nothing to write home about on such a day, but the way he played the second nine certainly was because it contained four birdies and an eagle. Some of the accuracy of his iron play was reminiscent of Johnny Miller at his peak. On four holes he hit his second shots to within 12 feet or less.

Severiano Ballesteros wears a copper bracelet around his wrist to ward off rheumatism. Huston, who suffers from tendinitis in his right wrist and bursitis in his left shoulder, carries around a duffel bag in which he keeps a £180 magnetic cover to slip over mattresses on which he has to sleep. It is supposed to increase the blood flow. "I think the working-out has helped and so has the magnet," he said. Earlier this year, Huston set a US tour record of 28 under par in a tournament in Hawaii.

It was a pity that a course otherwise in such excellent condition could not have greens that approached the speed of true seaside putting surfaces. Both the United States Golf Association and the Royal and Ancient seem intent upon making their championships distinctive, the USGA by appearing to want to make the driver an endangered species. The R & A seems to want the hard, fiery greens of old to be replaced by heavily watered ones that accept the ball willingly.

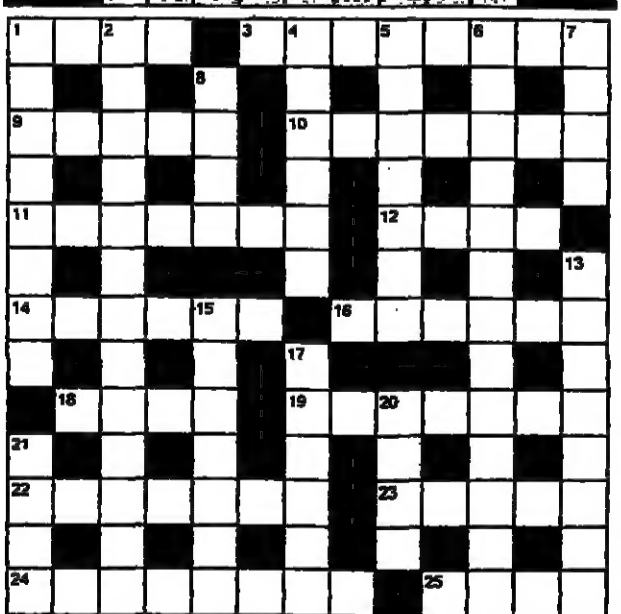
Birkdale's greens, satisfactorily relaid and deftly contoured as they have been, are not at true Open speed. What a shame. That might be one more defence that the course could be given to repel the advances of the skillful players of today.

Holder struggles, page 48
Scores, page 48
Lynne Truss, page 49
Early risers, page 49



Woods, one of many golfers who took advantage of benign conditions, lines up a putt during his round of 65

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1460

ACROSS

- 1 Part of head; a scary film (4)
- 3 Austrian emperor dynasty (8)
- 9 Movable joint (5)
- 10 Brought out to show off (7)
- 11 Rustic (7)
- 12 Period; designation (4)
- 14 Beautifully clear (6)
- 16 Beethoven's Ninth nickname (6)
- 18 Hit attempt party (slang) (4)
- 19 Wonderful lamp man (7)
- 22 Eternal (7)
- 23 Freewheel (5)
- 24 Power (8)
- 25 Restraining strap (4)

DOWN

- 1 Symbol of England (4,4)
- 2 Squadron Leader's boss (4,9)
- 4 Feature; appearance (6)
- 5 Abrasion; acceptable, when up to it (7)
- 6 University student (13)
- 7 Theatre gallery (4)
- 8 A mammal; fasten securely (4)
- 13 Microscopic sea organisms (8)
- 15 Prince of Wales motto (3,4)
- 17 Contrivance (6)
- 20 Curved opening (4)
- 21 Cat (in boots) (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1459

- ACROSS: 1 Copernicus 8 Builder 9 Large 10 Dome
11 Gaspacho 13 Adroit 15 Gounod 17 God's Acre
18 Lama 21 Event 22 Asteroid 23 Saccharine
DOWN: 2 Odium 3 Eddy 4 Normal 5 Colophon
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Houllier links up with Evans in joint charge at Liverpool

By DAVID MADDOCK

IT IS tradition more than anything else that defines Liverpool, and they managed to cling to it yesterday by appointing a new manager without sacking the incumbent. Only at Anfield could there be the sort of announcement that was issued to the media at lunchtime, to the effect that Gerard Houllier was joining the club as joint-manager with Roy Evans.

It is, according to the Frenchman, who was previously employed as his country's technical director, a common relationship on the Continent, but in England, the appointment of joint managers is viewed with understandable suspicion. Evans, for all his protests yesterday, had the appearance of a man whose number was up.

He denied it vehemently. "If I thought that Liverpool wanted to bring in a manager to get rid of me, then I would have been out of the door," he said. "If that is what Liverpool wanted, then I would have done what was best for them. But they didn't. I have spoken to Gerard frequently during the long negotiations to bring him to the club, and I know that we can work together."

"This is a big club with so many demands on the manager. I see this as strengthening the backroom staff, because that is what we are — all backroom staff together."

Houllier effectively replaces Ronnie Moran, who has retired after 30 years of devoted service to the club, under such luminaries as Bill Shankly and Bob Paisley. Moran, who joined Liverpool in July 1949 and played 379 games for the club before joining the coaching staff, was an integral part

in the club's domestic and European campaigns during the 1970s and 1980s. He acted as caretaker manager in 1991 when Kenny Dalglish left the club but preferred a place in the boot room.

There is little doubt, however, that Houllier, the former France international manager, will play a more prominent management role at the club.

Peter Robinson, the vice-chairman of the club, explained that it was Houllier's vast knowledge as a coach that attracted Liverpool to him. "In the modern game, there is a

need for a broad approach to management," he said. "Roy Evans was fully involved in the process of bringing Gerard to the club, and we feel that we have an effective partnership that draws on the talents of both men. We are certain that they can work as a team, and that their two parts will make a very strong whole."

Houllier himself gave an effective performance in his first outing under the English media spotlight. He could not, of course, answer the fundamental question of what hap-

pens if there is a disagreement between the two joint-managers, but he did make a reasoned and sensible argument about the merits of such a management system.

"I realise that people will see something sinister in my appointment, but there isn't," he said. "This arrangement is an original and modern blending of two men's experience. Of course, there will be times when it may appear difficult for us, but neither of us has an ego and we realise we are here for the club, and the players — to bring trophies to the club."

Houllier began his career by steering Noeux Les Mines to promotion from the French third division, before taking Lens into Europe and then winning the French title with Paris St Germain. He then worked as assistant to Michel Platini with the international side, before assuming control himself. Since 1994, Houllier has been employed as the technical director of the France Football Federation.

But he said his heart has always been with Liverpool. He worked as a schoolteacher in the city during the 1960s and regularly stood on the Spion Kop. "For 30 years, my heart has been red," he said. "I have always had great affection for this club, for its tradition and for the way it plays football. I also can see that they are on the verge of winning more trophies. I know all about the English Premiership, and I know that coming from the job I have had, it will be like emerging from a nuclear bunker into a minefield. But I am ready for it."



Evans, left, welcomes Houllier, his new Anfield partner

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